



Shops face paying price for town demo in lost trade

VETERANS STAND UP TO MARCHERS

Report by Richard Guttridge

MILITARY veterans have announced they are planning to hold a counter demonstration in Dudley against far right group Britain First.

The group, which acts under the name 'I'm a UK veteran and not a racist, and proud of it', says it has been angered by Britain First's use of the military to 'inflame public opinion'.

Members said they were offended by the use of images of murdered soldier Lee Rigby. They are also unhappy that Britain First sells pin badges bearing the image of the poppy.

More than 2,000 members of Britain First are planning to protest over plans to build a mosque off Hall Street next Saturday, May 9. The military veterans group, which has around 500 members, says it will hold a counter demonstration at the same time.

The ex-servicemen will be led by John McKnight, a Royal Navy veteran of 16 years, who said he plans to confront Britain First leader Paul Golding, who is expected to attend.

Confront

Mr McKnight said: "A small group of us intend to confront Mr Golding at this march to show him what we think of him."

"Our plan is to stand in front of him and his pseudo military bunch of bullies, whilst wearing military charity shirts and our regimental service berets, and hold up a white feather each, to signify his cowardice."

"We intend to make our statement in a peaceful manner and will not rise to any taunts that they throw at us. We feel that once our statement is shown to the world, people will wake up to the fact that Britain First do not represent or support us in any way."

The protest comes just three months after the English Defence League and their opponents held demonstrations in the town centre.

Traders in Dudley say mass protests in the town are 'destroying' their businesses. Dudley Police have organised public meetings to discuss the policing operation. More than 50 people attended a meeting at Dudley Council House on Thursday to raise their concerns. Businessman Tony Swannie, owner of Plaza Mall in the High Street, said the protests was hitting traders in the pocket.

"There are businesses in Dudley that are barely surviving," he said. "These protests are destroying our businesses. We cannot afford to lose another day of trading."

A hotline — 07824824468 — will relay information on the protest. Police hold a second public meeting on Wednesday at the council house.

HIPPODROME SHOCK AS RESCUE BID COLLAPSES



The failure of an £8m deal to save the Dudley Hippodrome on Castle Hill has left the town's landmark theatre facing a bleak future

AN £8 million deal to save Dudley Hippodrome has collapsed after talks over a rescue bid broke down, leaving the landmark theatre facing a bleak future.

Campaigners said they were 'appalled' after the deal by The Rok Group to reopen the venue fell through. It marks a major blow to the three year campaign by the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome to save the venue, after their own proposals were knocked back.

The Rok Group, led by Jonathan Kendrick whose family owned the theatre in the 1960s, said it had now withdrawn its bid to acquire,

re-open and refurbish the Hippodrome. Bosses claimed the deal broke down after they failed to reach an agreement over shared use of the car park that also serves Dudley Zoo and over the cost of removing asbestos.

The Rok Group also said they were 'frustrated' that despite their proposed investment no senior councillors had face-to-face talks with them.

But Dudley Council said officials were involved in talks and reported back to senior councillors. Council officials also said the company's plans would have left the au-

thority with a risk of stumping up £1m to safeguard the scheme. The row has led to Dudley's UKIP group calling for an extraordinary meeting of the full council and urging the setting up of a cross party group to discuss the Hippodrome's future.

Friends chairman Gordon Downing said: "I'm appalled that this has happened and we feel the council have delayed and delayed on this issue." Dudley Council's acting strategic director John Millar, said: "The council has continued with its commitment to look at any viable proposal with an open mind."

CARJACKING

Woman hit by her own car during attack

A WOMAN was run over by her own car during a terrifying carjacking in Kingswinford. The 26-year-old was dragged from the driver's seat of her Ford Mondeo in Ham Lane in the early hours of Monday.

Two men in a dark hatchback had blocked her way before running towards her vehicle. One man got into the backseat as the other pulled the victim from her car. The attackers reversed into the woman, driving over her leg as they made a get-away.

Two men were later arrested.

FINANCE

Building society branch revamp

A BUILDING society branch in Brierley Hill is closing for a fortnight for refurbishment.

The Dudley Building Society branch in High Street will be shut from 5pm tomorrow (Friday) until 9.30am on Monday, May 18.

The society is in the midst of a programme of upgrading its branch network.

Brierley Hill customers will be able to use branches in Dudley, Stourbridge, Kingswinford and Gornal Wood.

COLLISION

Girl, aged 3, thrown from vehicle in crash

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was thrown from a car and left with serious head injuries following a crash in Tipton.

Her mother was also badly hurt in the smash and had to be cut out of her Ford Focus after it was involved in a collision with a Volkswagen Golf in Park Lane West at 1.15pm on Monday.

The force of the collision was such that the girl was thrown from the car and onto the road.

The youngster was being cared for at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Her injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

INSIDE

BRIAN SAYS AIM FOR THE STARS



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Year round angling at popular pool

ANGLERS will be able to fish in a pool at a popular park all year around after a three-month closed season was removed for the second summer in a row.

It had been introduced after complaints about people illegally fishing at Himley Park, on the border of Dudley and South Staffordshire.

Extra security had to be drafted in to prevent the theft of fish during the closed season, which ran from mid-March to mid-June.

But, following a successful trial in 2013, Dudley Council announced it

would be keeping the Great Pool open to anglers all year round.

Bosses have announced that the closed season has again been removed this year.

The closed season had aimed to allow fish stocks to be replenished through re-stocking and breeding. But bosses said the believed removing the three month ban they would stop illegal fishing by increasing the amount of the time the pool is open to anglers.

Closed seasons will remain in place at the pools at The Leasowes in Hale-

sowen and at Fens Pool in Brierley Hill.

John Millar, the council's acting environment chief, said: "Decisions on putting in place closed seasons are taken individually for each site so that local environmental considerations can be accounted for."

"This year there is no closed season at Himley while a closed season was put in place during breeding season at Leasowes and Fens Pool from March 15 until June 15 to help maintain a healthy population."

When the trial was carried out in

2013, bosses said they would assess the impact of the extended fishing time before make a decision on whether to make the move permanent.

It was decided there had been no negative impact on the fish stocks at the site.

Before lifting the fishing ban last year, the council had spent £1,404 protecting the pool with a security company was temporarily contracted to monitor the site over fears of illegal fishing at night during closed season.

Store would be no threat to pub say developers

A COMPANY which is planning to build a supermarket on the car park of a Dudley pub says there is 'no question' surrounding the pub's future.

The landlord of The Crown in Nether-ton has said he fears for the future of the pub after the plans for the Co-op store to be built on part of the pub's car park were submitted by New River Retail.

But bosses from the firm say that if the plans are approved they expect both businesses to operate side by side.

The Crown, in Simms Lane, was among 200 pubs bought by New River from Marston's in a £90 million deal.

Landlord Robin Wall said he feared cheap alcohol on sale at the new store would 'finish him'.

He would also consider fighting the proposals as other campaigners have fought similar campaigns to protect other pubs in the Black Country as community assets.

New River spokesman Martin Hughes said: "We have put together proposals at the site with the specific objective of ensuring that The Crown public house is retained and operates long into the future. There is no question of the pub being closed if the plans are approved."

"Elsewhere in the country where small convenience stores have been delivered alongside public houses, a community hub has been created which has meant that the pub can benefit from linked trips. The proposal aims to provide a modern new store that will serve the immediate locality, improve local choice and create around 20 new jobs."

Student in skydive to thank hospital

A STUDENT from Halesowen is preparing for a charity skydive.

Adam Jones, who studies Business Management at the University of Gloucestershire, will make the leap on May 23 in aid of Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, where his father received treatment after a heart attack.

The 21-year-old will freefall from 10,000ft as part of his tandem skydive, from which he hopes to raise £500 for the hospital.

Adam, who is in his second year at university said: "I was determined to do something to say thank you."

"I'm pleased to say my dad's made an excellent recovery."

See his charity page at justgiving.com/adamjone5

Soup kitchen held for families in need

A SOUP kitchen is run by a church in Nether-ton on Tuesday evenings. Volunteers from Champions Church serves a two course meal every Tuesday evening for needy families. It is held at the chapel in St Giles Street, from 6.30pm with a free bus available. Call (01384) 457923.

Housing boom aims to boost town centre

A HOUSING boom is on the way for Dudley town centre with 650 new homes planned to help boost its regeneration.

Council bosses want to encourage more people to live in the town centre. They say shops and businesses in the town will benefit from increased trade.

It's the latest vision to help breathe new life into the centre and comes after a £50 million masterplan to build restaurants, shops and houses alongside a supermarket on the site of Cavendish House was unveiled earlier this month.

Among the housing projects is the conversion of former council offices dotted around the town's civic quarter into 90 homes. The historic former post office on the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Priory Street has been earmarked for 21 apartments. Around 140 homes are to be built on the site of the old gas works in Constitution Hill and another 43 on Dudley College's old Mons Hill campus.

Further schemes are in the pipeline to provide more homes in and around the town centre to help meet the demand.

Affordable

Housing chiefs say they want to ensure there are 'affordable' options for families as well as increasing footfall in the town. They say shops and restaurants will benefit from more people being on the doorstep.

John Millar, acting strategic director for economy, environment and housing, said: "Our exciting regeneration work across the town centre will not only bring exciting shopping and business opportunities, but a key part of this is making sure we have affordable homes for people."

"We are creating opportunities for people to live close by to help naturally increase footfall in the town centre and take advantage of all the town has to offer."

"As part of this we are creating 650 homes in and around the town centre at sites including North Priory, Constitution Hill, Mons Hill and also the refurbishment of former office buildings into residential properties in the civic quarter."

Work has been taking place over the past five years. It has been given a boost by completion of Dudley College's £30m learning quarter while work is nearing completion on a £6m overhaul of the market place.

Explore the grounds of Himley Hall



Dawn Smith and Jackie Winn are getting ready for the guided walks around Himley Hall and Park this month

WALKERS can discover the secrets of Himley Hall and Park during a series of free tours this spring.

The historic hall is hosting a number of events including walks and a tour for wheelchair users from now until May 27.

Next up is an easy access trail on May 16 giving wheelchair users the opportunity to get a guided tour of the grounds and learn about Himley. The tour starts at 2pm.

People can take in the architectural features of the hall and wild-

life on a guided walk in the grounds on May 24, from 10am.

On the same day, there will be a band concert in the park from 2.30 to 5pm when people can relax in the grounds and enjoy a picnic. The tea rooms will also be open.

Scavenger

Children can take part in a scavenger hunt on May 27, from 11am to 3pm, which includes worksheets and searching for natural items in the park.

Places need to be booked for all of the tours by calling the hall, run by Dudley Council, on (01384) 817817.

The 180 acres of grounds were designed by Capability Brown and include a great lake fed by a series of waterfalls. When owned by the Ward family, the hall received royal visitors. In 1934 the Duke and Duchess of Kent honeymooned at Himley and The Duke of Windsor spent his last weekend there as Edward VIII before his abdication

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From socks to safes — all found in reservoir

TROLLEYS, tyres and even a toilet emerged from the depths of a reservoir in Dudley as a team of divers got into the water as part of a clean-up operation.

The divers from Dudley Dolphin Sub-Aqua Club were taken aback to find a toilet sitting at the bottom of Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton — it was an even greater shock when two safes were discovered. The police are being informed about the find. One of the safes was found with its door open.

A variety of home appliances were found in the waters. In fact, it appeared everything but the kitchen sink had been tossed into the reservoir at some point.

A gun spotted on the reservoir floor turned out to be a toy. Skateboards and traffic cones were also added to the pile of waste plucked from the waters during the sub aqua litter pick. Divers filled a sack with old beer cans.

Dudley Dolphins welfare officer Mandy Downing came up with the idea of the litter pick as a way of improving the environment for the wildlife that lives in and around the reservoir, as well as for the water skiers, sailors and anglers that use the water.

The mountain of waste was all recovered from the reservoir's shallower areas, with divers yet to swim to the bottom of the deepest part.

Mandy added: "There were so many socks found, perhaps that's where all the missing socks from people's laundry baskets ended up."

Mini magic going on show at hall

A CLUB for Mini enthusiasts will be marking the start of the summer show season with a special event at Himley Hall and Park next weekend.

The British Mini Club (BMC) will be holding the show at the Dudley Council-run mansion and its grounds on Sunday, May 10, between 10am and 4pm.

There will be a competition with 12 different classes to compete from, catering for every model of Sir Alec Issigonis's iconic car, so closely associated with the 1960s.

Running alongside, there will be the Mini Show 'n' Shine display, with sections for both the classic Mini and modern Mini. For more information call (01384) 897779 or email david.hollis@britishminiclub.co.uk.

Author is to give a talk at library

AUTHOR Adele Geras is visiting Dudley Library to give a talk on her new book *Out of the Drak*, set just after the First World War. Tickets for the talk on Saturday at 2pm can be reserved on (01384) 815560.

ISIS bomb maker's terror threats



Hamayun Tariq, aged 37, from Dudley

A CAR mechanic from Dudley who joined the Islamic State has posted taunts on social media revealing his bomb-making factory in Syria.

Hamayun Tariq, aged 37, was born and bred in Dudley but the father-of-two now claims to be an explosives expert and sniper for ISIS after fleeing the UK for Pakistan following his release from prison.

He has now shared chilling pictures on Twitter of a room kitted out with components, instruction manuals and bomb-making equipment.

Along with pictures of his 'labo-

ratory' in Syria, the jihadi has said: "IEDs is my favourite weapon after Sniping, u hit the enemy & disappear in thin air just like a Ghost. Its a Must".

Tariq, who is divorced, claims he is using the room to make IEDs — improvised explosive devices.

It has been reported Tariq joined the Taliban after moving to the Waziristan region of north west Pakistan in 2012. According to reports Tariq had served a three-and-a-half year sentence after being deported to Britain. He was arrested for fraud in

Wolverhampton in 2005 but fled to Pakistan to avoid the case going to trial.

Meanwhile, a teenager from Lye has been arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences related to Syria.

The 18-year-old was detained by officers from the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit at an address in the town and taken to a Birmingham police station for questioning.

Computer equipment was seized from his home. The teenager, arrested on suspicion of preparing for terrorist acts, has been bailed until July.

Pallbearer is jailed for knife attack on mourner

A PALLBEARER who knifed the son of the woman whose coffin he had just carried has been jailed for four-and-a-half years.

Simon Hughes stabbed Adam Hipkiss, the brother of his estranged partner, in the chest after downing around 20 pints at the wake.

The 36-year-old security guard 'had words' with his former girlfriend before leaving the wake at the Blue Brick Inn on Planet Road, Brierley Hill. He then went to her family home and damaged windows before collecting four kitchen knives and heading back to the pub.

Hughes was in the street with a knife in each hand when he came face to face with Mr Hipkiss and another mourner, James Trevelan, who had both just left the wake. He told them to 'prepare to die'.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the pair persuaded him to drop the knives before Mr Hipkiss tried to detain him — unaware that he had two other knives in his pockets.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "There was a fight during which Mr Hipkiss was stabbed in the chest leaving a V-shaped wound. Thankfully the knife did not penetrate the chest cavity and it was not a very serious wound."

Alcohol

Mr Trevelan also received a minor cut to the hand whilst trying to intervene and was soon joined by other mourners who held Hughes down until police arrived.

Mr John Evans, defending, said the stress of the funeral combined with anti-depressant tablets and a large amount of alcohol had combined to drastically alter the character of Hughes.

He said: "He had not demonstrated violence in the past but became a changed man. What he did was wholly wrong and he acknowledges that."

Hughes from Orchard Street, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to wounding with intent, assault, possession of a bladed article and criminal damage at the wake on January 26.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told him: "You had had far too much to drink. There was a confrontation at night in public during which you stabbed the brother of your former partner, and son of the deceased, in the chest. You must be sentenced for the intention you had when you wielded the knife."

Restaurant vision for old fire station



An artist's impression of the restaurant being created in the old fire station in Dudley town centre

THIS is the vision for a £900,000 restaurant being created in a former fire station in the heart of Dudley town centre.

The Old Glasshouse is due to open its doors in July, creating up to 20 jobs. The building, previously Carvers Cafe, will be transformed into a stylish bar and restaurant to bring the boarded up premises back to life.

It was also once home to Dudley's first fire station and a former

glassworks. The building runs along one side of Stone Street Square and is opposite the town centre landmark pub The Saracen's Head which is being converted into a sport bar by Amber Taverns, also creating 20 jobs.

Remains from the glassworks beneath Stone Street Square will be viewable through a glass floor in the Old Glasshouse. The owner is Craig Willis and the restaurant will be managed by Shakeel Zafar.

"The Old Glasshouse will create 10 to 20 full and part-time jobs and recruitment will be starting later in the year," said Mr Zafar.

The bar entrance will be off the square with the bistro/restaurant entrance in Priory Street.

The project, which has attracted funding from both the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dudley Council, will see the reinstatement of several historic architectural features.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rethink on Sunday ball games ban

A LONG-STANDING covenant banning ball games on Sundays in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park could be lifted.

Dudley Council is considering removing the ban, which also stops ball games being played on Good Friday, following a request from a bowls team.

Philip Tart, the council's strategic director for resources and transformation, said: "Following guidance from the Charity Commission, we are looking at getting specialist legal advice on the possibility of altering the covenant which is in place."

Flog It expert to hold fundraiser

AN antiques expert who has appeared on the BBC's *Flog It* is hosting a fundraising night at Stourbridge church tonight (Thursday) when people can bring along interesting old items.

Mark Hannam is an auctioneer and valuer at Fieldings Auctioneers, in Stourbridge, and has featured on the television show. He will be at St Thomas's Church Hall to help raise money for its annual flower festival this July. The event is being held at the church, in Market Street, from 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 including light refreshments, available on the door.

Crash three are taken to hospital

TWO men and a woman were taken to hospital following a two-car collision in the Black Country.

Fire crews from Tipton and Dudley were called to Birmingham New Road, at the junction with Tipton Road, Dudley at 8.05am on Saturday. The crash involved a Rover and a Vauxhall Zafira.

The two men and the woman were not thought to be seriously injured but were all taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley for checks.

Ground decision saves club from relegation

TIVIDALE Football Club have been saved from relegation after winning an appeal over their ground.

The club had faced demotion to the fifth tier of non-league football after an initial application to upgrade the ground was rejected.

But the decision was overturned at Wembley Stadium on Friday, meaning the club can remain in the Evo-Stick First Division South.

Officials said they were delighted with the verdict.

Eatery and offices plan

A PUB in Cosely will be converted into a restaurant/cafe under new plans after being sold.

There are proposals to transform ground-floor area of The White House in Daisy Lane into a restaurant and cafe which also has offices on the first floor.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



"PERHAPS too much Cognac." Manager Michael Grange's priceless explanation of the fire at Oxford's famous Randolph Hotel, thought to have been caused by someone cooking a beef flambe.

THAT P-word keeps popping up. People keep banging on about "progressive" politics. Have you noticed how they never tell us what they are progressing towards?

BALLOT Monkeys (C4) is a new political satire on the General Election which claims it is "so topical it hasn't been written yet." Oh, yeah? Some of the gags in the first episode had whiskers on them. Even so, it was a fair and funny effort. I loved the wonderful Sarah Hadland as the Ukip activist who can't open her mouth without going off-message (Breastfeeding? Yuk)

THIS week's rash of revelations about massive salaries and pay rises for senior NHS executives should surely focus minds on how the health service spends its money. Apparently not. When party leaders talk about the future of the NHS, they always pledge more money, as if the sole aim is to spend as much as possible. Isn't it obvious by now that the many-headed leviathan of NHS management is perfectly capable of absorbing every penny the nation throws at it (currently £115,000 million and rising), while still delivering some of the longest queues and worst cancer-outcome rates in the developed world?

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon says of her



manifesto: "This is about how we deliver better politics, not just for people in Scotland but right across the UK." This is presumably the same UK that Ms Sturgeon

and her pals want to destroy.

HOW finance works. My credit-card company, noticing that I never spend up to my credit limit, has just reduced my limit by £2,000. This releases £2,000 which they can then lend to some poor devil already up to his eyeballs in debt. The leaden lifebelt.

A READER writes: "With the election looming, there are far too many political jokes doing the rounds. The snag is, some of them will get elected."

IT is a wonderful spring for cherry blossom. When the cherries appear, the finches we see for only a few fruit-rich days per year will descend and take the lot in an orgy of scoffing. Yesterday I saw a brief flash of colour over our blossom-covered cherry tree. Some would see it as a rare sighting of a gorgeous little bullfinch. I see it as a reccé for much gorging to come, the first spotter plane before the blitz.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Winter warm scheme helps 800 families

MORE than 800 families have benefited from a scheme helping them to keep their homes warm during the winter months.

Dudley Council has been offering support to households via its winter warmth scheme.

They have been speaking to residents and staff have worked with health and social care workers to help anyone they feel may be at risk.

Some 837 households across the borough have received practical help and assistance to keep themselves and their homes warm. This has included home visits giving energy advice, support with tariff switching and practical help to keep homes warm.

Emergency heaters, blankets, hot water bottles and bedsocks have been provided, as well as help to access grants, benefits and managing energy debt.

John Millar, acting strategic director for economy, environment and housing, said: "The winter warmth scheme has proved to be a fantastic scheme providing much needed support to the people most in need of additional help to stay warm during the winter months.

"We hope that this scheme has

helped us to avoid unnecessary hospitalisations and to reduce the cold related deaths that occur each year as a result of vulnerable people being too cold in their homes. The fact that the scheme has helped over 800 borough households to keep warm is a great achievement."

The winter scheme has closed now but advice is still available from the council on (01384) 817086.

Take a lead by joining course for dog owners

FOUR-LEGGED friends are invited to take part in a new canine training course at Dudley's Priory Park.

The sessions take place every Saturday from 10am to 11am for dogs aged up to six months and at 11am to 12noon for dogs aged over six months.

Led by the Kennel Club, the activities are open to dogs of all ages and breeds and cover behavioural training, obedience, tricks and exercise and cost £1 per week.

The classes enable dogs to work through four different courses from puppy foundation level up to bronze, silver and gold standard.

It's hoped they will promote the health benefits of owning a dog while enabling dog owners to meet like minded people.

Beautiful

John Millar, acting strategic director for environment, economy and housing, said: "There are many health benefits to owning a dog as they encourage us to walk more and often help us to socialise with others."

"These courses are designed to help improve pet behaviour in the beautiful green spaces of Priory Park."

Adults and children of all abilities are welcome. Participants meet at the Priory Park tennis courts on Priory Road.

Puppies can begin after their course of vaccinations is complete.

To book a session or for more information call (01384) 812474 or email lindarickhuss@aol.com

Offices proposed at former GP's

A DOCTORS' surgery in Stourbridge left empty when staff moved to a new £8.5 million medical centre could be converted into offices.

Plans for the Worcester Street Medical Practice premises have been submitted to Dudley Council.

It is proposed to turn the premises into several self-contained offices and it is hoped that these will attract new businesses into the town.

A decision on the scheme will be made by councillors within the next three months.

The building has been vacant since the surgery re-located to the enhanced former Foster and Raistrick site, off Lowndes Road, last year.

The former practice was put on the market for £399,950 last summer.

Church will be venue for bride fashion show

A WEDDING fair is being held at a Stourbridge town centre church next weekend. The event in St John's United Reformed Church off St John's Road is on Sunday, May 10, 1.30pm to 5pm with bridal fashion show at 3pm. Admission is £2 for adults.

Lack of consultant has hit dental service

By Andrew Turton

DENTAL patients in Dudley borough have had to travel further afield for corrective treatment after health bosses were forced to turn folks away.

Some people have been unable to get dental treatment in Dudley for around 16 months after officials refused to take further patients.

Those patients have instead been referred to other parts of the Black Country, Birmingham or Solihull for orthodontic treatment, such as braces. This was due to a 'significant mismatch between demand and capacity' in the borough.

Only one consultant had been managing the service based at Russells Hall Hospital.

Dentists in Dudley say they are concerned after the consultant retired, leaving the service with only a locum for remaining patients.

Problem

Dudley Local Dental Committee chairman Sue Stevens, of Norton Dental Practice, Stourbridge, said there is a 'major problem'.

"The waiting list is still closed, since January 2014," she added. "Children with severe orthodontic problems, unsuitable for treatment in primary care, are unable to access consultant led services."

"The consultant has now retired, and a locum appointed for six months, who is unlikely to be seeing patients from the waiting list."

"The commissioners at NHS England in Birmingham seem to be content to forget about provision of services in Dudley."

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "The orthodontic service remains closed to new referrals. Despite attempts to recruit to the consultant post, we have been unsuccessful. This is in line with a national shortage of orthodontists. We are about to make a further attempt to recruit by advertising the position again."

Variety shows up to help school



Variety children's charity chairman Ralph Holden presents the keys to Old Park headteacher Gill Cartwright OBE

A SPECIAL school in Dudley has welcomed the arrival of a new minibus from the Variety Club.

Old Park School in Quarry Bank, were presented with the bright red bus after applying to the children's charity 18 months ago.

Charity chairman Ralph Holden met with head teacher Gill Cartwright OBE at the school to make the presentation.

Ms Cartwright said: "We're so pleased to receive the minibus from the Variety Club, which was able to fund half the costs. An important part of the pupils' education is a wide range of exciting enrichment activities and the new bus will help the school to do this."

"Trips out of school include weekly horse-riding, visits

across a range of activities in the local community and integration links with other schools and colleges."

The school now has three buses for the use of the 136 students who attend Old Park. The students, aged from four to 19, have learning difficulties and many have autism.

The Variety Club was set up in the UK in 1949 and was one of the first charities in the UK for children and young people. The charity aims to improve the lives of young people.

Ralph Holden, regional chairman of the charity, said: "We are thrilled that the school will be able to take pupils out so they can enjoy activities in the local community."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman in CCTV image is cleared

A WOMAN police wanted to speak to over a theft from a woman suffering a seizure in Stourbridge has been identified and ruled out of investigations. The 48-year-old was shopping in Stourbridge's Ryemarket on April 7 when she collapsed. While passers-by rushed to help, police believe one woman reached into the victim's handbag and stole £60 cash. Police released a CCTV image of a woman they wanted to trace. A spokesman said: "After speaking to her and reviewing the footage, it's been established she was not involved in the theft at all."

Green Devil voted the best ale again

MEMBERS of Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale are travelling to Peterborough to present an award.

Green Devil, a six per cent ale brewed by Peterborough-based Oakham Ales, was voted beer of the festival by drinkers at the annual Dudley Winter Ales Fair in Dudley Town Hall in November. It is the second year in a row it has won.

The award will be presented to the Oakham team on June 20.

Dudley's 2015 winter ales fair will run from November 26 to 28.

Dramatic society stage a thriller

A THRILLER by the writer television hits including The Avengers will be brought to the stage in the Black Country.

The curtain will rise on Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society's production of Edge of Darkness this week. The play was written by screenwriter Brian Clemens, who died in January aged 83. The society is staging its version at Stream Road Methodist Church, Kingswinford, from yesterday (Wednesday) to Saturday.

Mozart Mass to be performed at concert

DUDLEY Choral Society, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, will be performing Mozart's Requiem Mass at its spring concert next weekend.

Works by Purcell and Parry will also be included in the concert at St Mark's Church, Pensnett, on Saturday, May 9 from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 for adults, £6 concessions and £1 for under-16s. They are available on the door, or from secretary Anne Shirley on (01384) 259250.

New bike track on way

A £23,500 bike track will be built in Kinver to boost activities for young people in the village. The track will be constructed next to the skate park, created five years ago. It will replace the worn out bike track built by Kinver Action Group in 2009 and should be completed this month.

Sailing club plan race to raise funds for lifeboats

A SAILING club are gearing up for a six hour race in aid of a lifesaving charity next weekend.

Members of Himley Hall Sailing Club are preparing for the race on Saturday, May 9, at Himley Hall that will see them raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The club has raised over £96,000 since they first ran the long distance race in 1976 for the RNLI who save lives at sea.

Organiser Alan Dean said "We're hoping that this year's event will be really big. The RNLI is such a worthy cause. If there are other sailing clubs out there who would like to enter, there's still time. Just contact the club — we'd be delighted to have you aboard."

Despite Himley being one of the smallest sailing lakes in the country, the Royal Yachting Association short-listed the club as one of five contenders for its prestigious Club of the Year Award.

The club itself will field several teams made up of families, safety boat operators, trainers, women, juniors.

Ellowes Hall School will also field a team for this year, after recently introducing sailing as an option in PE.

People can donate money on the day at the thatched clubhouse, or the starter's hut which is on the lakeside.

To book a place call the co-ordinator Tony Sutton on 07774 818 449.

There will also be taster day held on May 19 for people interested in sailing.

Reunion planned for old school pals

CLASSMATES from a Dudley school that closed in 1990 are organising a reunion. The year group that started at Sir Gilbert Claughton Grammar Technical School in 1971 is holding the event on Friday, May 15.

The idea came after former pupil Paul Floyd, of Sedgley, posted a photograph of the school football team, taken in about 1974, of which he was a member, on a social media site. It resulted in him being contacted by many former pupils.

Organisers are inviting pupils who attended the school in Blowers Green Road between 1971 and 1976 to get in touch with Mr Floyd on 07941 439231 for more details.

The site of the former school is currently up for sale.

Social enterprise group meeting

A SOCIAL enterprise network meets on Tuesday. Dudley-based Synergy will meet at Unit3Sixty, Stourbridge, from 9.30am. For details call Caroline Webb at Dudley Council for Voluntary Service on (01384) 573381.

Councils together could halt bed blocking

PLANS for a combined authority for the Black Country and Birmingham will help to end bed blocking in hospitals, a council leader says.

Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, is leading the Black Country's negotiations for a West Midlands Combined Authority to work with Birmingham that cross borders.

He said he wanted the new body to have the power to integrate health and social care and end the 'competition' between councils and hospitals. It follows plans for Greater Manchester to have control of the entire £6 billion health budget for its city region.

Councillor Cooper said: "It's fundamentally unacceptable to have cases of bed blocking because there isn't a joined up approach between health and

social care. People don't see the difference between what's the council's responsibility and what's the hospital's."

"They shouldn't have to put up with different parts of the system competing with each other. There should be a quick and seamless response to getting people the support they need to leave hospital when they are well enough."

Work

Bed blocking is the term given to delays when patients can leave hospital but another part of the system holds them up.

Councillor Cooper added: "We also want direct influence over JobCentre Plus and any Work Pro-

gramme schemes. We think we have the right contacts to link people with jobs."

The combined authority would involve Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall and Birmingham councils working together. However it has been promised that there would be no merging of the authorities, nor would there be any new council wards created.

The door is also open to Coventry and Solihull if they wish to join. They already work with the Black Country and Birmingham on public transport.

Tory grandee Lord Heseltine has said that the Black Country and Birmingham is next on the list for devolved powers after Manchester but has suggested an elected mayor may be required.

Patients given more of a say in running services

FUNDING of £50,000 has been awarded to set up patient groups to represent the views of residents across Dudley borough.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has allocated cash to enable Patient Participation Groups (PPG) which will work to make improvements during the next two years.

Each group is linked to a GP practice in the borough and members work alongside health staff to provide a patient perspective on the healthcare services available in the community.

A budget of up to £1,000 for each PPG has been made available to enable them to set up, encourage the involvement of new patients and work to improve health and well-being of patients. The funding has been made available through the PPG Purse Grant Programme.

A number of groups have already planned health events, such as tea parties and open days, for their particular practice.

One of the first is Three Villages Medical Practice in Stourbridge, which was hosting a tea party this week to keep in touch with patients. The Ridgeway Surgery in Sedgley is planning an event in June.

Projects

PPGs from different practices can work collaboratively to host joint events and activities, when the individual budgets can be pooled for larger projects.

Cicely Thomas, chairman of The Ridgeway Surgery PPG, said: "We are so pleased that funding has been made available. We are really excited at the opportunity to make a difference to our local community and encourage more people to join our PPG and have a voice."

There is no closing date to apply for funding. To ensure the money is ring-fenced, Dudley CVS will be holding the funds and administering the programme over the next two years.

For more information about the PPG Purse Grant Programme, call either Helen Codd on (01384) 321719 or Kate Green at Dudley CVS on (01384) 573381.

The move comes after GPs in Dudley were handed more power to manage the borough's £400 million health budget. They will work with NHS England to decide how the money is spent. Dudley CCG was given permission to take responsibility for co-commissioning the majority of GP services from this month, one of the first given the green light by NHS England.

The vinyl countdown to retro fairs



Henry Ratcliffe, front, with, from left, Maria Kaye, Guy Brace and Annabel Cooper get ready for a vintage fair

A COUPLE with a passion for the past are taking Stourbridge back in time with retro fashion and classic music.

Henry Ratcliffe and Maria Kaye are bringing a record fair to the Talbot Hotel next Saturday, May 9, after it's successful debut earlier this year. When the vinyl is packed away after the sale, Miss Kaye will then turn her attention to a vintage fair which she will be hosting the following week,

on May 16 at St Thomas' Church Hall in Market Street.

They are hoping to take advantage of a resurgence in interest in vinyl and fashion from the 70s, 60s and 50s.

Mr Ratcliffe said: "I have grown up with records, my dad had them and I never really stopped buying them. I have always been a bit of a collector."

"I set up the records fair because I thought there was a

need for it in Stourbridge. We've had one event at the Talbot and around 200 people came."

The couple, who live in Birmingham, both have experience of working in music stores.

Miss Kaye will be back in Stourbridge for the retro and vintage fair. She has been running such events with her friend Ella Gardiner for around a year.

Both events take place between 11am and 4pm.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Political advice – from a murderer

STILL wondering which way to vote in the election? Seeking wise counsel on where to put your cross come polling day? Fear not, Moors murderer Ian Brady has entered the debate, and has put his thoughts on paper. Apparently, he believes most professional criminals are Tory voters, he says David Cameron represents “the usual mob-pleasing PR driven expected from such bovines”, and believes David Dimbleby is an “establishment dumpling”. Suffice to say, he is not very fond of Ed Milliband either, although it’s probably best not to go into his rather offensive thoughts on that matter.

Apparently, Brady hasn’t read a newspaper since 1998, and keeps up to date by watching the Middle East television channel Al Jazeera – don’t you just reckon they will be thrilled with that endorsement? Still, it’s wise to remember all this next time the European Court of Human Rights starts banging on about giving prisoners the vote.

A FEW weeks ago, a note from the council contractors landed on the door, mat informing us that the road would be resurfaced. Among other things, it boasted how environmentally friendly the new resurfacing process would be. I know we have to take care of the wildlife these days, but was it really necessary to carefully lay the asphalt around a dandelion?

THE problem with many of the email scams is that very often it is very hard to tell what is genuine. I received a communication supposedly from B&Q, telling me how it was “the perfect place to choose a new shade of paint, invest in some kitchen cabinets, or simply buy a few plants for the garden”. It also told me that if I clicked on the attached link, I might be in with the chance of winning a £500 voucher. However, I think on this occasion, it might not be all it seems. I’m really not convinced that bq@yazmin.homeybot-tom.com is an official B&Q email address.

MORE weirdness from the world of education. Turnham Primary School in south-east London is now insisting that all three-year-olds must now sign a contract guaranteeing that that they will be tolerant of various things, including “race, gender, class, ability, faith, sexual orientation or lifestyle”, and that they must “refrain from using transphobic language in the school.”

I suppose we should be impressed by the fact that all the children are presumably able to read and write at such a tender age of three, although it does not say what action they take if they breach the agreement. Court proceedings to confiscate their yo-yos, perhaps?

Transphobic language? Something to do with those cars that turn into robots?



Rev Katryn Leelezio has found 1,191 caches



Special discovery hanging from tree



It is interesting to find what is in the containers

Treasured pastime firmly on the map

Never mind games consoles, the popular pastime of geocaching brings its own thrills, as ROB COX explains

WITH the variety of entertainment available on games consoles and tablets, the popularity of geocaching to some appears remarkable.

Following a map to different co-ordinates and then filling out a logbook offers, it could be argued, slightly fewer thrills than the latest instalment of Call of Duty.

But the continued expansion of geocaching around the world is down to simple pleasures, an activity which has kept children occupied for years – the humble treasure hunt.

Finding a box hidden in a tree after hours of searching offers the same joyous experience of finding an Easter egg hidden by your parents.

The difference with geocaching is the unprecedented scale on which it is played.

Stashed

More than two million items have been stashed in nooks and crannies across the planet.

The forces of globalisation mean people are travelling more than ever, making the game impossible to complete and playable almost anywhere.

In the West Midlands geocaching is proving increasingly popular, with thousands of hidden items to find and log online.

For those unclear about how it works, game players use GPS-enabled devices – usually mobile phones – to find containers that are hidden in public areas by other geocachers.

The idea is to search online before setting out, enter co-ordinates into your device, and then use your wits to track down the exact location.

Most containers have a log book which can be filled out, and the box is returned to its hiding place.

Once back in the warmth of their own



Rev Katryn Leelezio all ready to go with her GPS device

homes gamers can record their finds online and leave comments.

Feedback is about prestige for the cache hider, and considered a reward for hiding the box in the first place.

Some boxes contain items which can be taken, as long as they are replaced.

There is also an ethical side to geocaching which gamers voluntarily abide by. The rules are as follows.

- * Don’t leave obscene comments or materials behind for others. The idea is for geocaching to be family friendly.
- * Respect local laws, including property boundaries. Caches must be placed in public areas. But anyone can set one up.
- * Never move or remove a cache and log any issues with damaged caches, missing logbooks or inaccurate cache information. It is then up to the cache owner to take action.

- * Respect for the environment around each cache. ‘Cache In Trash Out’ events are regularly held with cachers taking bags and picking litter as they go.

And, as mentioned, if you take something from a cache, leave something in return.

In the Black Country, there a few more prolific at finding caches than the vicar at St Peter’s Church in Cradley, Rev Katryn Leelezio.

Since starting back in 2001 she has found 1,191 caches and has hidden around 15 of her own, including some in the churchyard.

She explained there are thousands in the Black Country and some are more difficult to find than others.

“Some of them can be really hard to find,” she said. “I was out with a colleague the other day in Netherton. We got to the spot the co-ordinates were pointing to and it was saying it was in someone’s garden.

“We realised that couldn’t be it and when we checked the terrain rating was just one and the difficulty to find rating was five.

“So we looked at a map and found that the Netherton tunnels went under where we were. We ended up going into the tunnel three times until we found it.”

The 53-year-old has geocached around the world from South Africa to Scandinavia to Cyprus.

Each week on her day off she will go off to find another cache, and while on holiday she likes to find ‘at least’ one per day.

Of the hundreds she has located she says the ingenuity of some of the cache owners in the Midlands is among the best in the world.

“Some people have the cleverest ideas,” she said. “We were near Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire doing a circular walk of around 10 or 12. But there was one we just could not find.

“The GPS signal was great so we knew we were within a metre of it. It said it was by a stile but I had felt all around it and must have lifted every stone there was.

Canister

“It wasn’t until we went to go over it that I noticed the arrow sign was wiggling around. Someone had hollowed it out and put a little film canister inside with the log inside.”

The popularity of geocaching could also be attributed to its ability to evolve and expand.

Rev. Leelezio says what has really taken off in the Black Country area is the concept of EarthCache.

These are geology-related caches where, instead of a box to find, it teaches you about a particular geographical feature.

This development follows on from ‘geocoins’ and ‘geobugs’ inside hidden boxes.

These items have tags on them with a tracking number. When the finder enters the number into the geocaching website it reveals the item’s ‘mission’.

Rev. Leelezio once hid a toy giraffe, which has now been travelling the world for four years. Its mission is to return home, but has since been recorded as far away as Cape Town and Slovakia, so it could be away a while yet.

It seems the simple pleasure of finding hidden ‘treasure’ is just as appealing in the digital age as ever before.

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It’s been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn’t focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn’t expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.”

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. “The truth is that it’s not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I’ve done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.”

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he’ll be happy to help!



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Visitor centre will 'disfigure' beauty spot

I READ with dismay of the visitor centre that has been given planning permission by Bromsgrove District Council. This is a decision that will have far more impact on the people of Dudley than the citizens of Bromsgrove, so it seems inappropriate that the final decision on this significant development should rest with their council.

It also seems illogical to create another entrance to the Hagley Hall estate, particularly when it will be situated so far from the hall itself. No doubt this was done to avoid protest from the residents of the village.

Placing the new entrance and visitor centre on the A456 is unwise as this is already a very busy road and gaining access and egress to and from the estate could be quite hazardous.

No doubt traffic calming measures will be brought in which will then create traffic congestion in the area. Bromsgrove Council appear to be rather good at this as can be seen by the traffic island 'improvements' at the new housing development in Hagley.

However, the worst aspect of this development is that it being carried out on Green Belt land that is also

adjacent to the National Trust owned Client Hills. It most certainly will detract from the views from these hills.

Once the centre has been built and is operational no doubt there will be 'needs' and 'economic' benefits found to justify further developments in the area. My great fear is that for the people of Dudley and South Birmingham our only area of outstanding natural beauty could eventually be heavily disfigured by this breach of the sanctity of the Green Belt.

D CARTWRIGHT
Halesowen

GP crisis has to be sorted out

LAST week my husband tried to get a GP appointment because he was feeling very poorly. We thought it was flu but he was feeling worse.

He was told at the surgery he had no chance of an appointment and to go to a walk-in centre about four miles away. He was so ill my son took him to Russell's Hall A&E department. They saw him right away and said if my son had left it one more day he would be in hospital with pneumonia.

Cameron and Miliband should stop arguing like school children, blaming each other about the state of the NHS and try living in our world. We're the ones that are suffering.

They find millions of pounds for foreign aid but there is never enough money for our needs. Like all NHS needs this GP situation is getting worse. They can bet their sweet lives that they won't get my vote.

M JONES
Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Pension not another benefit, it is earned

VERY pleased to receive a letter from the pension service saying I will get an increase in my state pension. Not so pleased that it is described as a general increase in benefits.

I do not look on myself as receiving benefits. I receive a pension which I have earned through paying tax for 50 years, part of which was used to fund pensions for people already retired. I also, like millions of others, paid graduated pension and state earnings related contributions with the promise of receiving a greater pension on retirement.

I find that as the demands on the state increase more and more often state pensions are referred to as benefits. When a pie chart was shown recently pensions were 50 percent of the welfare payments. Is this a deliberate ploy to eventually phase out the right to an automatic state pension?

I feel convinced that the retirement age will become a thing of the past. People will no longer automatically be able to stop work just because they have reached a certain age, rather they will have to be signed off as not fit by a doctor in order to receive a 'benefit'.

One more question, benefits are not taxed, so if a state pension is a benefit why is it taxed?

R GWILLIAMS
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Fifth rate politicians lack respect

AFTER watching the first election debate I thought that's enough for me. Despite that I still gave it another go but never again.

It was just like watching and listening to a gang of kids in the playground (sorry kids) bawling and shouting their heads off, what a load of rubbish.

Also relating to the playground was the lack of respect. I have always believed that all people have their right of opinion whether you agree with them or not.

The only laugh of the night came when David Dimbleby tried to make out the audience wasn't being biased.

There must be thousands, if not millions, who watched the debates over the last few nights and must be wondering how have we come to this.

What has gone wrong that we have ended up with a load of fifth rate politicians? God help us.

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Captivating talk on war memorial

Amblecote History Society

MIKE Perkins gave his traditional welcome before giving a brief update on current local matters.

He then handed over to chairman Pat Martin to introduce John Hale for a talk about The Dudley War Memorial – the men, the battles and the burials.

The 1914-18 Dudley War Memorial is located in Priory Street and was commemorated by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin as part of the 1926-28 Coroner's Court development which adjoins Dudley Council House.

The memorial features 720 faintly carved names in stone, of which 717 men are soldiers from Dudley town.

John had undertaken much research to identify and correlate the names on the memorial using a book from the library to cross-check names with those inscribed on the memorial itself.

A Roll of Honour written by the Dudley Teacher's Centre contained 550 names and he then needed to reference the War Widows index.

At present he has identified and associated all but 20 of the Dudley men on the memorial.

John's talk was captivating, informative and prompted many questions. He was roundly applauded for his excellent presentation before being formally thanked by Pat Martin.

In May 13 in The Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Centre, Kevin Goodman will talk about 'The Black Death and how it affected the West Midlands'.

Pressing engagement from guest speaker



From left, registrar Jan Burrows, outings secretary and Lisa Williams, Express & Star Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

AT their April meeting, 39 members enjoyed an excellent three-course meal at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath.

Chairman Mary Jones was delighted to welcome several visitors and hoped the friendly atmosphere would encourage them to return.

Speaker Lisa Williams has worked in journalism for 18 years and is now the Lifestyle Editor at the Express & Star. She explained how the paper had to adapt to modern technology. With the advent of the internet, news is instantly accessible and the paper has had to change to accommodate this.

Lisa works on the Woman and Weekend

supplement which features celebrity interviews, real life stories, fashion and more light-hearted stories. She added that the editorial teams all worked hard to try to appeal to all ages.

Lisa engaged really well with her audience resulting in a host of questions.

The speaker on Friday, May 8 will be Nigel Wiggan on Old Hall Stainless Steel, on June 12 Ruth Lowe will talk about Mary Quant fashions and on July 10, Ray Sturdy will entertain with a see and hear quiz.

Thinking caps on for quiz

Wordsley 'M' TG

sodes. Liz Hubbard gave the vote of thanks.

The Inter Guild Quiz is on June 1 at Stourbridge Football Club. Ann Birchell also gave details of a race day on June 24 which includes a fish and chip lunch and a competition of the most el-

egant or quirky hat. There will be a Harvest Lunch in October and the carol service on December 12.

Liz will host the coffee morning on May 21 and Doreen Davies on June 10.

On May 18 Mike Guy will demonstrate, with audience participation, 'The Ins and Outs of Origami', the art of paper folding.

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No logic over lack of nurse training



DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

DEVOLUTION of power, so it isn't concentrated all in one place, seems to be high on the politicians' agenda, but is it too much to ask for a little joined-up thinking?

Take the NHS, for example. On a visit to Wolverhampton the shadow health secretary Andy Burnham is as much at a loss as anyone else to explain the logic of not funding more training places for nurses, while hospital trusts are so desperate for staff they go to places like Greece and Italy to find them. Mr Burnham says he'll sort this out if he gets into the Department of Health in May.

Whether Labour's so-called 'man-sion tax' and a promise to pump billions more into the NHS will solve it is another matter entirely.

Deny

It makes no sense to deny the opportunity of a career in nursing to a young person for want of funding, only for another arm of the NHS to then use public money to bring someone in from overseas. That's absolutely no criticism of the foreign nurses.

At the moment they're falling over themselves to promise devolution to the English regions - something that might be a necessary sweetener if we are sold short in order to give Scotland what it wanted in exchange for not breaking up the United Kingdom.

One of the possible power hand-overs from Whitehall to the West



Andy Burnham - nurse shortage

Midlands could be around the issue of skills. There's an argument that under the coalition the oversight of education was concentrated too much in London. Is it going to be any better handing over skills to local areas without the rest of education?

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce was less than impressed by Labour's planned crackdown on employing migrant workers on low pay.

Ninder Johal thinks the party is using 'anti-employer' rhetoric while failing to tackle what he considers to be a bigger issue, namely that education isn't up to scratch. The chamber says 'our schools, colleges and universities continue to produce young people who are unemployable'. Ed Miliband is adamant that good employers have nothing to fear.

But it does expose a couple of holes



George Osborne - same policies

in Labour's 'guarantee' of an apprenticeship for every young person who makes the grade. Firstly, how do you guarantee a job when it requires employers to create the apprenticeship?

Secondly, what do you do about the ones who don't make the grade? Mr Miliband says Labour will help those who don't make the grade too. So that's all right then.

Thousands of jobs, hundreds of thousands of apprenticeships and hundreds of thousands of people getting the right to buy their homes; the Tory economic plan for the West Midlands is stat-tastic.

Chancellor George Osborne's announcement in the West Midlands would have been impressive, were it not essentially the same policies we've been hearing for the past weeks.

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Tribute to pub landlord and former pro wrestler

A FORMER professional wrestler and well-known pub landlord has died. Ian Stenner was 64.

Tributes have been paid to Mr Stenner, who was originally from Wolverhampton but lived in Cannock for many years and adopted the name Pat Patton when he turned pro-wrestler in 1977.

He was known for wearing brightly-coloured judo outfits working for Join Promotions under promoter Max Crabtree during the 1980s. He made his television debut in 1979 on ITV's World of Sport and went on to make 40 appearances.

Wolves fan Ian also worked in the pub trade with his wife Susan, 65, and retired from the ring in 1987 to concentrate on working for Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries.



Pat Patton in his wrestling days



Pat and Susan behind the bar

Practise

Together they ran The Apple Tree in Coseley and Samson Blewitt in Hednesford for 18 months each but spent the majority of their career, 17 years, at The White Hart in Cannock.

Mr Stenner died on April 2 from pneumonia a year after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Mrs Stenner, who was married to Ian for 43 years, said her husband enjoyed life to the full.

"When he started wrestling it was a big shock for me. He met a chap in the industry called Johnny Holt, who was known as Johnny England in the ring, and used to practise with him at lunchtime at work.

"Ian went with him to Manchester for a trial and came back and said he was going to start. It was a big shock.

"I did enjoy it, and used to go at the weekend to see him. When he got his first TV appearance that was a big honour for him and he wrestled at

the Royal Albert Hall for a match. He became Big Daddy's tag team partner and was very well regarded in wrestling and the pub trade."

Mr Stenner is survived by two sons Simon, 42 and Craig, 49, as well as four grandchildren. He had two sisters Susan, 60, and Anne, 57.

When he retired in 2004, he enjoyed travelling and loved his holidays to

America in particular. Mrs Stenner said: "We had a good life in the pub trade doing what we wanted to do. Ian was quite loud and everyone knew when he was about. He was fun, fun loving, kind, and enjoyed life to the full.

"He was a big Wolves fan and enjoyed going down to watch them. He will be greatly missed."

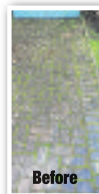
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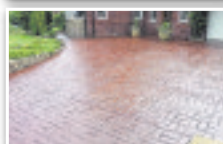
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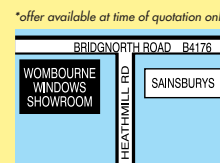
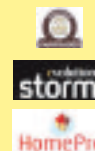
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A free shuttle bus will run between Birmingham Moor Street Station and the Arena every hour, 9am to 6pm, on the day.

Law firm sponsor cricket club



Halesowen Cricket Club chairman Richard Evans (left) and CBTC director Neil Mocroft

HALESOWEN Cricket Club has announced a major sponsorship deal with West Bromwich and Stratford-upon-Avon law firm Clark Brookes Turner Cary (CBTC).

The firm is to inject a "significant sum" to help support the Birmingham and District League side this summer.

As part of the package CBTC will be utilising the facilities to target a part of the Black Country where it has previously had only a minimal presence.

Kevin Drew, a senior associate solicitor with CBTC, said: "We will be looking to actively build our profile and attract new clients."

"It will be a return to my old stamping ground as director Neil Mocroft and I used to work out of Halesowen and Stourbridge in the 1980s and 1990s. This is going to be a win-win for both the club and ourselves."

Theatre hosts special relaxed style of show

WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre has announced a special "relaxed performance" of a family show for people with special needs.

The performance of Dr Seuss's The Cat in the Hat on September 5 will be tailored for audience members who will benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment, such as those on the autistic spectrum.

The Saturday show will start at 10.30am and will be the third relaxed performance to be hosted by the theatre, following the success of previous relaxed pantomime performances.

Small changes are made to sound levels and lighting intensities to reduce levels of stress that the performance may induce to those with sensory or communication disorders.

Tickets for the relaxed performance are £12.50 each. For more information call 01902 573 311.

I feared for my life says Pc who clung onto a stolen car

A POLICE officer clung onto a stolen car as the banned driver sped away after stealing fuel from a petrol station, a judge heard.

Pc Christopher Howell was clinging to a stolen Citroen C4 as it sped off the Co-op forecourt in Dudley Port, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

But he was forced to throw himself clear after realising he would be struck by a parked vehicle, said Mr David Iles, prosecuting.

"The officer could see he would be knocked from the Citroen and so broke free and rolled

across the forecourt as the driver left at speed," said Mr Iles. Pc Howell, who was taken to hospital for cuts and bruises, said: "I feared for my life," the court heard.

He had been on patrol when spotting the petrol pump was feeding fuel through a rear window of the Citroen into a large container.

Driver Craig Williams, of Colbourne Road, Tipton, saw the officer approaching and sped off, abandoning his accomplice who was left holding the fuel pump.

Mr Iles explained: "The car left with wheels spinning and the officer hanging on while shout-

ing for the driver to stop." The Citroen was on false plates and had been stolen by 40-year-old Williams from Great Bridge Cars in Great Bridge Street, narrowly missing a salesman.

Williams stole two other cars from MJC Motors in Queens Road, Smethwick and Cars and Commercial at Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. They were sold to fund his drug habit.

Williams pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer, theft, dangerous driving and driving while disqualified. He was jailed for two years nine months and banned from driving for three years.

Homes plan for hospital site

PLANS to redevelop a former hospital in Dudley into more than 150 homes have been submitted.

Wates Living Space has formally submitted the plans for the Guest Hospital site to Dudley Council after the long-awaited proposals were unveiled to residents at a public consultation last week.

A total of 157 homes would be built on the land, opposite the Black Country Living Museum, 39 of which would be council-owned properties. The rest would be privately sold.

The developer is hoping to begin work at the site later this year but has warned there could be a further delay before work starts due to mine shafts that have to be located and filled.

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Warning on fake tickets

FESTIVAL-GOERS are being warned to avoid buying tickets from unofficial sources as trading standards officers launch a crackdown on fakes.

Staffordshire County Council experts have issued the advice as tickets are snapped up for some of this summer's major events, including the V Festival at Weston Park. People could be at risk of spending hundreds of pounds on counterfeit, they warn.

A helpline is available on 01785 330356.

A TEENAGER wanted by police for allegedly making violent threats to a man was arrested after trying to evade officers on a bicycle.

The 17-year-old made off from the PCSOs in New Street, Gornal, on Thursday of last week but was arrested by police after a lengthy pursuit.

He was wanted in connection with a public order offence in Dibdale Road near Milking Bank, Dudley, that happened on February 28 when a man was threatened with violence.

Tweeted

Sedgley and Gornal Police tweeted: "Male who was wanted decided to make off on pedal cycle from PCSOs in Gornal."

"After a lengthy pursuit on bikes, male in custody."

New council housing plan

A DEAL to transfer a site for council homes in Sedgley has got the go-ahead.

Work to convert the former care home Areal Lodge in Sedgley will begin in June. The building will be the site of eight bungalows and six apartments.

The care home closed seven years ago, when more than 40 residents had to move out. Councillor Rachel Harris said: "The council has now decided to use Areal Lodge as a new-build housing scheme."

FOCUS ON SEDGLEY AND GORNAL

Residents renew campaign to improve safety on road

CAMPAIGNERS have renewed their pleas to improve safety on a road in Sedgley after an accident prompted a police investigation.

Residents living on Northway have set up their own action group after a spate of accidents and growing concern over safety in the road.

More than 50 people attended a public meeting to raise their concerns with members of Dudley Council.

By Andrew Turton

"Do we have to have a fatality before they will listen and act properly?"

Dudley Council's acting environment boss John Millar, said: "We will, of course, be speaking to police following the incident on Saturday to ensure any concerns are properly addressed in the proposals we draw up."

"We have been speaking to Mr North about a range of issues at this location for some considerable time. All his suggestions have been fully investigated and there are plans for a new mini roundabout and a pedestrian refuge, as well as resurfacing near Alder Coppice school which will be done later this year."

"We are also proposing to introduce a safer routes to school scheme along the Northway the following year which will include a 20mph zone and new signs."



60s musical Hairspray stars Laurence Edmonds, of Clent, and Rebecca Hadland, of Sedgley

Rebecca is going back to the 60s

A THEATRE company is preparing to stage its own version of the hit West End and Broadway musical Hairspray, starring a young actress and singer from Sedgley.

The show set in 1960s Baltimore was made into a hit movie and it is being staged by Kinver Light Operatic Society at Edgecliff High School between May 11 and 16 with Rebecca Hadland as the rebellious Tracy Turnblad.

Performances will start at 7.30pm at the school in Enville Road and there will be a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday, May 16. Tickets are priced at £11 for adults and £9 concessions with tickets £13 for peak performances on Friday and Saturday.

To book tickets call Jean Mills on (01384) 836963 or 07828650377 or email peter.twankey@blueyonder.co.uk, alternatively visit the website at www.klos.co.uk for further details.

Medal from Pope taken by a thief

A PENSIONER has spoken of his devastation after a thief stole a medal awarded to him by the Pope.

Graham Carter, aged 74, was cutting the lawn at his home in Clarence Street, Dudley, and had left the front door of his flat ajar to run the lawnmower cable through, when the opportunist burglar struck.

The rare Benemerenti medal was awarded to Mr Carter in recognition of his 50 years service to the Catholic Church at St Chad and All Saints Church in Sedgley.

Mr Carter, who has now completed more than 60 years service at the church, was presented with the medal at his church in 2003 after it had been sent by the Vatican.

Anyone with information in relation to the theft should call West Midlands police on 101.

Help needed to clear paths

HELP is needed to maintain paths at a beauty spot between Upper and Lower Gornal and Sedgley.

The Friends of Cotwall End Valley want people to turn out on Sunday from 10am to noon to clear undergrowth from paths. Those willing to help should meet at The Alley, off Straits Road, and wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Gloves will be provided. The reserve includes Turner's Hill site of special interest.

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O'Hara mansion for a cut-price £1.85 million

HOW do you fancy moving into the ultimate Wag pad for the bargain price of just £1.85 million?

Well, as long as you don't mind sharing with the ghosts of relationships past, Danielle Lloyd and former Wolves player

Jamie O'Hara's former love nest could be yours with £145,000 knocked off the original asking price.

The house, on Rosemont Roman Road, Little Aston Park, was the pair's former martial home but, following their split its price has now been slashed in a bid to make a sale.

The sprawling home is the quintessential Wag palace, with six bedrooms, a grand entrance hall, home cinema, games room and three-car garage. It also boasts a state-of-the-art kitchen, dressing room, lounge, dining room and laundry.



The spacious kitchen



Chandelier in the dining room



The sprawling home is the quintessential Wag palace

Entice

It first went on the market in July last year. And it was thought to have been sold for the full £1.95m when it was taken off estate agent Rightmove's website a few months ago, but it has now reappeared for the cut-price fee in an effort to entice potential buyers.

The Rightmove listing describes the house as: "A truly remarkable modern family residence situated in the heart of one of the region's finest residential locations, renowned for its private rhododendron-lined roads."

The mum-of-three and her ex-husband, who scored just two goals for Wolves during his ill-fated time with the club, put the property up for sale nine months ago, following allegations that the former England under 21 international had been unfaithful.

Danielle, 31, is thought to want to move back to her home city of Liverpool after their break-up. O'Hara, who

now plays for relegated Blackpool, currently lives with a friend in Edgbaston.

The 28-year-old took a wage cut when Wolves were relegated to League One in 2013, but still made £20,000 a week.

Despite a positive start to his career with the club, where he impressed during a loan spell from Tottenham Hot-

spur, the £3.5 million man struggled to make any sort of impression while in the Black Country and was released last summer.

His position in the squad eventually deteriorated to the point where he wasn't considered worthy of a squad number by Wolves manager Kenny Jackett.

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Victory for young lady of the dance

SHE traded in her football boots for dancing shoes, and now Molly Higgins has been crowned under-16s European champion in Irish dance at a competition in Germany.

The 15-year-old from Kinver wasn't keen when she first joined her friends at the Katie Collins School of Irish Dance, but she soon changed the Riverdance bug.

She said: "I moved from Bristol and quite a few girls were joining and I just wanted to meet some new friends."

"I was quite a tomboy and I would have wanted to play football instead. It was far too girly for me. I stuck at it though and now I love it."

Nervous

"I was probably one of the most annoying people Katie has ever taught."

"I used to mess about and talk with my friends. I'm the least likely person to have come this far."

It was her second trip to the Düsseldorf-based competition.

Last year, she came seventh and was aiming for a top six result in the 2015 competition. But she came first.

"I was really nervous," she admitted.

"My dance teacher put a lot of work into it, so I wanted to make her proud."

"It was a bit stressful, but it was a nice stressful. My mom was there and was really supportive, but she was more nervous than I was."

"I don't remember when I won. It was such a blur."

"I just started crying hysterically and I looked around, and my mom and Katie were crying as well. It was emotional but happy."

Now she wants to defend her title and work towards the world championships, but she also wants to join a touring company of the worldwide hit Irish dance show Lord of the Dance.

"It'd be nice to do something with it," she added.

"I want to get paid, travel the world and meet other people."

Dance teacher Katie Hulagu said: "She's always been very good, and she's always picked things up quickly. She's come on so much in the last year though. We're incredibly proud of her."

With so much on the horizon, Molly isn't thinking of going back to the football pitch any time soon.

"I quit football," she said. "I do too much dancing now."



Molly Higgins, aged 15, from Kinver, is Europe's top young Irish dancer after giving up football

Many thousands of revellers on streets for Sikh festival

THE streets of the Black Country were awash with blue and orange as tens of thousands of revellers turned out to celebrate the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi.

Holy processions took place in Walsall and Sandwell yesterday, with the latter culminating in a spectacular celebration in Birmingham's Handsworth Park that was attended by more than 100,000 people.

The festival celebrates the creation of the Khalsa in 1699 — one of the most significant events in the history of Sikhism — and also marks the coming of spring.

Sandwell's parade is part of one of the biggest Vaisakhi celebrations outside India's Punjab region. It started in Smethwick, with people gathering at the Gurdwara Baba Sang in St Paul's Road from 7am.

The large crowd — many of them dressed in the Khalsa's traditional colours of orange and blue — began to gather to the tune of a steady beat set by a band of drummers.

The procession, known as Nagar Kirtan, was led by a group of barefoot sweepers who cleared the streets ahead of dozens of flag bearers.

Refreshments were served up free of charge by an army of volunteers.

They included Gurmit Singh, 41, who attended the parade with his father, Mohinder Singh, 59. They handed out bags of fruit and soft drinks to those taking part.

He said: "It is a great gathering. A big part of being a Sikh is helping others, its central to our culture. Giving out food and drink is something we do as a gesture of goodwill to everyone involved."

Pay rises worth £10k for bosses at hospitals

HOSPITAL chief executives in the West Midlands were awarded pay rises worth up to £10,000, it has been revealed.

An investigation into senior directors' pay packets unveiled £35 million in increases across the country despite unprecedented pressures on NHS spending.

An audit found some bosses in England and Wales enjoyed pay hikes of six per cent, well above frontline staff.

Annual accounts show that bosses of hospitals in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley jumped into higher pay bands worth up to £10,000 extra a year.

David Loughton, chief executive of the Royal Wolverhampton Trust which runs New Cross Hospital and Cannock Hospital, was paid a salary of between £210,000-£215,000 last year up from a £205,000 and £210,000 band.

Medical director Jonathan Odum was paid between £130,000-£135,000 up from the £125,000 and £130,000 scale.

At Walsall Manor, chief executive Richard Kirby was paid between £150,000-£155,000, while former chief operating officer Jayne Tunstall was paid between £105,000-£110,000. This compares to £145,000-£150,000 and £100,000-£105,000 respectively the year before.

At the Dudley Group, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, chief executive Paula Clarke was paid a salary of between £180,000-£185,000, up from £175,000 and £180,000.

At Sandwell and West

By Rob Gollidge

Birmingham NHS Trust, chief executive Toby Lewis was paid between £180,000-£185,000 during his first year at the trust.

And at the University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust, which runs Stafford Hospital, chief executive Mark Hackett was paid between £160,000-£165,000 in his first 12 months.

Sue James, chief executive of Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, formerly boss at Walsall Manor, reportedly netted a £155,000 payout by using a loophole where she 'retired' for 24 hours before taking up the same job again.

Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said Mrs James was allowed to withdraw her pension early under rules of the NHS pension scheme.

An investigation found some NHS executives in England earned more than £1 million last year, while directors at a handful of the worst-performing hospitals received pay packages of up to £5,000 a day.

More aircraft in show

ORGANISERS of the RAF Cosford Air Show have announced extra aircraft which will go on show during this year's event.

Thousands of visitors to the show, on Sunday, June 14, will be treated to a search and rescue role demonstration from the iconic RAF Sea King HAR3 in what is likely to be one of the aircraft's final public appearances.

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Mike Amith on the GNR Atlantis



Members building the signal box

Miniature railway hobby is still on the right track



Richard Smith and the late Ron Haddock laying track

FOR more than 30 years the Wolverhampton & District Model Engineering Society has been bringing together people interested in stationary engines, traction engines, aircraft, powered boats and most of all miniature railways.

It all began when Jack Acton placed a newspaper advert and the society was formed with monthly meetings.

For 10 years they only had a portable track which they set up at country fetes and the like, but then they had the chance to build a permanent miniature railway at Baggeridge Country Park, now open every Sunday and Bank Holiday during the summer months.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Shortly after opening, an adventure playground was built alongside the railway, ideal for a family day out. The society is now extending the track with phase one including a new loop and tunnel.

The society still takes a portable track to a few events each year, and on Sunday, May 10 they will be laying a line through Tettenhall Station to commemorate the 90th anniversary since the line through Tettenhall was opened.

It will be the first time people will be able to ride a train through Tettenhall station since the line closed 50 years ago.



Mike Smith driving the GNR Atlantic on raised track for smaller engines

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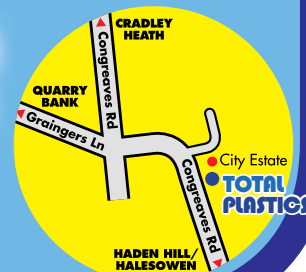
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Onesie walk on the wild side at zoo



Athena Beasley is all set for Dudley Zoo's sponsored Onesie Walk this weekend in aid of conservation projects

ANIMAL lovers are being urged to take a walk on the wild side in Dudley Zoo's sponsored Onesie Walk on Saturday

Open to all ages, the walk will take participants through the zoo's 40-acre site. Those taking part are welcome to wear their favourite animal onesie or fancy dress, but it is not mandatory.

Money raised from the 5km walk will be split between the zoo's conservation projects and 21st Century Tiger, a charity which supports tigers in the wild. Walkers who raise £50 could fund a ranger in Sumatra for one month. Registration is £5 per adult, £2.50 under 15s and under 3s free. Up to four spectators per walker get entry at £5 each.

NHS pensions warning

CHANGES to NHS pensions will leave the health service short of GPs, consultants and dentists, a firm of accountants has warned.

A new cap on how much an NHS pension can earn could persuade thousands of senior NHS doctors to take early retirement, leaving the West Midlands short

of their crucial skills. This is the warning from Bishop Fleming, an accountancy firm with a specialist team serving healthcare clients.

"Recent changes to pension rules mean that the NHS is likely to lose many doctors and dentists aged more than 50," said Tim Godfrey, head of Bishop Fleming's healthcare team.

"The recent reduction of the maximum pension pot is a big issue for NHS doctors - including GPs and consultants - and for NHS dentists. Now that the permitted ceiling for a pension pot is £1 million, many long-serving doctors and dentists - aged in their 50's - will have reached that ceiling and will now be studying whether it is worth their while to continue working," said Mr Godfrey.

"I understand why the Government introduced these new pension rules, but everything in life can have unintended consequences."

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Accountant must pay Christian groups £34k

AN ACCOUNTANT who stole more than £500,000 from two charities, including a Stourbridge Christian centre, has been ordered to pay back £34,000 of his ill-gotten gains.

Church members this week said they were grateful to police for recouping some of the cash they lost to shamed accountant Stephen Methuen, who was originally from Wordsley.

When the courts jailed Methuen back in 2012, investigators believed he was penniless and ordered him to pay back just £1.

But after more than two years of investigations, finance experts discovered £34,000 which they tracked back to a pension pot.

Methuen, aged 60, had worked as a volunteer treasurer and accountant for Amblecote Christian Centre and over a six-year period stole the large sum of cash.

During the previous court case, the judge heard Methuen had used the cash to refurbish his home, pay off spiralling credit card debts and to help save his failing business.

Swindled

He swindled £400,000 out of the Christian centre, in Brettell Lane, and more than £100,000 from the Christian International Relief Mission, both between 2003 and 2009.

Methuen, once of Smalman Close, now of Rubery in Birmingham, had admitted a total of 16 counts of fraud and was jailed for five years.

He has since been released from prison on licence.

The courts have now ordered Methuen to pay back the cash following a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 8.

The West Midlands Asset Confisca-



Amblecote Christian Centre in Brettell Lane was swindled out of £400,000

tion Enforcement Team had pursued the cash following his sentence two and a half years ago.

Vera Williams, who led the investigation, said: "This just shows how committed we are to ensuring people return assets they have gained as a result of crime."

"Although Methuen was jailed back in October 2012 we have remained focussed on this case and this is a great result that will see tens of thousands

of pounds returned to the church."

Adrian Lowe, from Amblecote Christian Centre, added: "This is another example of the great support that police have given us as a church family."

Exemplary

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Aim for the stars, says TV professor



Star selfie — Prof Cox with engineering student Cain Costello

SCIENCE superstar Professor Brian Cox officially opened Dudley College's engineering and manufacturing campus, declaring it a place where students' dreams can come true.

As a man who is known for gazing at the stars, it was the scientist and television presenter who was the focus of attention as he toured the £7 million Dudley Advance facility on Friday.

Professor Cox was the guest of honour as Dudley Council bosses celebrated the official launch of the campus in Priory Road, which they

Celebrity scientist Brian Cox launches new era at Dudley College, Richard Guttridge reports

hope will give students the skills to be the manufacturers and engineers of the future.

He was given the chance to test equipment and also delivered a lecture to Year 10 pupils from schools across Dudley and Sandwell.

Professor Cox said facilities such as the Dudley campus were vitally important to the future of Britain.

He explained: "In this country we know we will need more than a million engineers at all levels, from apprenticeships to PhDs, by 2020. That's not going to happen but we

must find more engineers in this country."

The campus offers courses for more than 1,200 students and the curriculum has been developed and delivered in partnership with Aston University and employers.

Professor Cox said opportunities were endless for young people who acquire qualifications in science and engineering.

"There will be a guaranteed job — they will be in demand. But the most important thing is how exciting it is to learn about science and engineering. There is a possibility for these students to be involved in building aeroplane engines and Mars rovers."

Professor Cox first found fame as a member of the band D:Ream in the 1990s and he has been widely credited with helping to make science cool.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "He is a science superstar. We want more young people to be enthusiastic about science, particularly girls. Brian Cox embodies a working man who has become a superstar in science."

"We get hung up on everything happening in the exam room and we want kids to do well and get their maths and English — but it's all about learning technical skills."



Principal Lowell Williams shows Prof Cox around the campus



Black Country school pupils meet TV science star Brian Cox



Professor Brian Cox officially opened Dudley Advance campus

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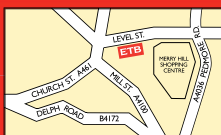
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Life's in full bloom

Embracing a new-found confidence, keen gardener Shirley says sharing smiles is now so totally natural

SHE laughs easily, smiles a lot and loves company, with this 70-something-year-old enjoying a fresh confidence in her day-to-day living.

Fun-loving Shirley Foster, a passionate gardener and keen modern sequence dancer can't wait for some sunshine and watch her collection of blooms spring into life.

"I love my collection of poppies. They look stunning with their large colourful flower heads and gardening is a real therapy," she says.

Admitting she "is very privileged to be so fit", Shirley walks wherever she can – she doesn't drive – and for the first time in years is living life with spontaneity she has not known for years. Not that she has ever failed to embraced the chance to wring every last drop of living out of life, but troublesome teeth and ill-fitting dentures were for ever eroding confidence.

Her problems began when she was at school and a life dogged with dental issues followed.

"My two front teeth went bad and had to have crowns fitted on posts. It was the days of the school dentist and I had to go – everyone dreaded it. I had never been in so much pain with the treatment.

"I religiously attended the dentists every six months to try and keep out of trouble, but as the years went by I

seemed to pick up more problems and gradually started to lose my teeth with one abscess after another.

"For 30 years or more, I've had a partial top plate, but it kept breaking. The bottom plate was worse as it seemed to have a mind of its own."

Refusing to be beaten by her ill-fitting dentures, Shirley, a former employee at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, carried an essential denture rescue package wherever she went.

Free consultation

"I'd go nowhere without a tube of fixative in my handbag – no matter what I was doing," she recalls.

"I was always putting my hand in front of my mouth and raising a finger to my top denture to make sure it was in place. Unable to do anything more for me, my dentist referred me to see someone in Birmingham but it was too far for me to travel from Wednesbury," she adds.

It was then Shirley discovered the Denture Clinic after reading an article in her local free paper.

Hoping for a solution, she booked a free consultation. Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal at the Denture Clinic, says: "She came to our Wolverhampton clinic and it was clear she had

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stabilisation problems with her dentures. A guaranteed solution for her bottom prescription was for over-dentures to be secured by a couple of implants. We made a high quality top denture and the combined effect of using both therapies is excellent. Not only do Shirley's teeth look great, they are also functional."

Adds Shirley: "It's lovely to have the freedom now of not having to worry about whether my teeth would pop out if I coughed or sneezed. I love to talk to people, but now I can smile as well.

"I feel confident that my teeth are secure, my bottom denture being firmly on the implant 'press studs'."

In recent years Shirley has found love second time around. "I lost my long-term partner a few years ago, but now I have a very special friend. I met him at a tea dance. Ironically, he'd just been to his dentists and heard the music and decided to pop in. I'm very privileged and my daughter helps keep my outlook young especially when I'm shopping for clothes," adds Shirley.

"I can't fault the treatment I received and I'm very pleased with my teeth. Steven was lovely and so were all the staff at the Denture Clinic and Jon Pugh's practice in Wolverhampton where the implants were fitted."

• Jon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry) GDC 62663, is principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

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Mystery and mirth in a Cornish mansion

Rebecca, Birmingham Rep
CORNWALL-BASED Kneehigh are one of the country's best touring theatre companies and take the Cornish connection further with Rebecca, a vintage country house drama by that county's best known author, Daphne Du Maurier, with Poldark actor Tristan Sturrock in a lead role.

With it's crashing waves and sea shanty singing fishermen, this production couldn't be more Cornish flavoured unless they dished out pasties and clotted cream teas in the interval.

Director Emma Rice has crafted a revision of the story in which gothic gloom is tempered by broad comedy. A fine ensemble cast clamber around Leslie Travers' evocative set that blends crumbling Manderley mansion with a boat washed up in a cove.

Humour comes from Katy Owen as an enthusiastic young Welsh footman, whilst Lizzie Winkler and Andy Williams amuse as a boozy pair of 1930s party animals.

The drama is supplied by Tristan Sturrock as the tortured Maxim de Winter. Imogen Sage simmers with jealous passion as the new Mrs de Winter living in the shadow of glamorous first wife, the deceased Rebecca, and pitted against Emily Raymond's contemptuous Mrs Danvers. This excellent production continues at The Rep until Saturday. **Leon Burakowski**

Relentless joker was exhausting

Tim Vine, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

I have been well and truly Tim Vined — pretty much in the manner I was once Ken Dodd when I went to one of his shows and didn't get out of the theatre for five hours.

Herein lies the difference. Ken's jokes are constant but Tim's are relentless. His material is shot out in 90 minutes, leaving the audience hardly any time to laugh, let alone breathe.

His brilliance floored me. Pun after pun, joke after joke. I was left needing food, drink and a lie-down by the end. I had heard of his smart reputation of walking away with the honours at the Edinburgh Festival but I had no idea he was such a dynamo.

Tim held us in the palm of his hand from the moment he stepped out of a chimney pot wearing what looked like cricket whites and a striped boating jacket. His quick-fire wit is interspersed with downright silliness, little songs and a passion for sharing his innocent take on life. Class — but exhausting. **Sarah Cowen-Strong**

REVIEWS



Another stunning performance by the sparkling Alexandra Burke

Spectacular show proves Alexandra still has X factor

The Bodyguard, Grand Theatre
IT may be seven years since Alexandra Burke won that talent show but Hallelujah she still has the X factor.

As lead Rachel in The Bodyguard she literally held the packed Grand Theatre in the palm of her hand, bringing rapturous applause for the closing number I will Always Love You as she was raised on a platform above the stage.

The effects were quite stunning although they went a bit overboard with the smoke. In fact everything about the show was spectacular. Any worries that Alexandra could sing but not act were soon swept aside and she teamed perfectly with the very starchy bodyguard Frank, played by Stuart Reid.

Also with a great voice was Melissa James who played Rachel's jealous sister Nicki, but tugging on the heartstrings was Rachel's young son Fletcher played by Jhayheim Davis, so cute, and boy could he sing and dance too.

A wealth of great numbers, Greatest Love of All, One Moment in Time, All the Man that I Need and the cast came on at the end to get the audience singing along to I Wanna Dance With somebody, a lovely touch leaving everybody in a party mood. It runs at the Grand until Saturday. **SA**



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Mods, rockers and old time classics



Another self-portrait exhibition entry of Sandwell youths



Young mods' self-portrait, in Oak Road, from 1985

MODS, rockers and old time classics – these nostalgic photos are among hundreds of images offering an insight into life in Sandwell during the 1970s, 80s and early 90s.

The photos have been unearthed from the basement of West Bromwich Town Hall and now take pride of place in a new exhibition in the town.

The 'Unseen Sandwell' exhibition is showcasing hundreds of images taken by community group Jubilee Arts during a 20-year period of 1974 to 1994.

Many of the photographs are of the group's artistic activities while

others capture social change across the borough. The project is the brainchild of former Jubilee Arts' member Brendan Jackson who has worked with Sandwell Community Archives Service over the last four years to get the scheme off the ground.

From the 20,000 images which formed the Jubilee Arts Archive, it was a forerunner to the 'selfie' which inspired the whole project. Taken in Oak Road, West Bromwich, in 1985, the image shows four young lads with a Small Faces album.

Mr Jackson said: "I love this picture. It was taken at a community festival event. A space for self-portraits was made by dragging a large piece of chipboard around and propping it up, set-

ting up a camera on a tripod with an air release rubber bulb cable release attached, then inviting people to make a picture of themselves.

"It was the second coming of the Mods and one of the lads insisted on going back home to get their favourite Small Faces LP from 1967, before being photographed."

Self-portrait exhibitions were one of the many activities Jubilee Arts, formed in 1974, organised across Sandwell.

The photos are on display at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus until May 27.

The exhibition is open from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm. Admission is free.

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Fay's farewell to The Full English

Folk 'super group' The Full English is on its farewell tour. DANNY FARRAGHER talks to creator Fay Hield

FOLK musician and academic Fay Hield is a woman who gets things done.

So when the English Folk Dance & Song Society (EFDSS) set up an online, searchable archive of nearly 60,000 items of social and musical history it turned to her to promote it.

Based in Sheffield, Hield, who has a doctorate in folk music, or to be precise ethnomusicology, had supported the project from the start and so EFDSS handed her the task of putting together a musical advert for the archive which became the award-winning The Full English music group.

"They (EFDSS) would have happily had me turn up with two musicians and sing some stuff but that's not what I wanted to do."

So where did she start, did she turn to people she knew would be up for it, or did she throw it out there and see who showed interest?

"Oh God no, I couldn't just throw it out, I knew then I would be inundated and I would have to turn people down. No, I decided who I wanted in it and then approached them individually."

With her shopping list fixed in her mind there was then the hefty process of deciding which songs to use.

"The archive has 58,000 scans so I needed some kind of divvying up mechanism so I looked at who the collectors were."

"Martin Simpson was very keen to look at Lincolnshire collector Percy Grainger. Nancy Kerr was very keen to look at the women collectors."



Fay Hield, front right, and The Full English will play Town Hall, Birmingham

"I wanted some broadsides as well as some ballads and thought Seth Lakeman would be great, so he took Frank Kidson. Also, I wanted tunes as well as songs so Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron did some tune development, Ben came up with his own songs, and I kind of scooped up the rest really."

Nightmare

"I sent Seth a dozen broadsides, Martin some recordings and Nancy some stuff as well which I thought would be helpful, but nobody really used anything I sent," she says with a wry laugh.

With all the musicians pursuing their own careers was it a nightmare to get everyone together at the right time and place?

"It was quite difficult finding dates that were suitable for everyone. We had to do it intensively really, but the good side about everyone being so professional is that everyone is so professional, so if they say they are available for those dates, they turn up and work very hard."

And was there a point where she lis-

tened and thought Wow! This is going to work?

"Yes, the first rehearsal. I had four or five songs I was leading on and they were quite groupish and I split the vocals with Nancy."

Was the FE always going to be a short-term project?

"It was, and it was going to be much shorter than it has been. We have always had to extend it a little bit because of its success."

Was there a danger the band could become bigger than the project?

"The sole purpose of the band was to tell people about the archive, and get people to visit it, to me that was the only reason for doing it."

With the amount of material available, why stop now?

"It would be very easy for us to pull a second album together but we decided not to. "We wanted an example of what other people can do, it's over to you now."

The Full English play the Town Hall, Birmingham May 7. To visit the EFDSS archive go to www.vwml.org/browse/browse-collections-full-english.

Underage drinking led to trio's folk breakthrough

Award-winning singers The Young'uns are about to tour with a new album, DANNY FARRAGHER talks to one of the trio



From left, Sean Cooney, Michael Hughes and David Eagle

THEY have won best group in the 2015 Radio 2 Folk Awards, and are embarking on a tour on the back of their new album Another Man's Ground, so everything seems to be coming together for Teesside trio The Young'uns.

However, the start for Sean Cooney, David Eagle and Michael Hughes in Stockton about a decade ago was a little more haphazard as by Eagle's own admission they really stumbled on folk music because of a certain pub.

"Michael and Sean have known each other from primary school and I met them through a mutual friend when I was about 16.

"Then we just happened on our local folk club in a pub in Stockton which was one of the few places that would serve us beer even though we were underage.

"Fortuitously there was also a folk club there, but we had no idea what a folk club was at the time and we just became captivated.

"We were completely taken aback by people singing harmonies and in Teesside accents, singing Teesside stories, we had never heard anything like it."

The trio's first performances were influenced by another local singing group.

"First we started singing a lot of traditional songs based around a lot of what we had heard from The Wil-

son Family," admits Eagle, "The five brothers from Teesside who sing a lot of unaccompanied harmonies.

"Then as time went on we started singing songs about Teesside and from Graeme Miles and Ron Angel who was the founder of the club we went to in Stockton, then this led us to write our own songs.

"Sean started writing songs about Hartlepool and history, then as time's gone on we started writing about more modern day things so we sing songs about today's issues as well now. We've progressed quite a bit I suppose."

Progression

Part of that progression was the decision to make the leap from simply enjoying doing what they did to making it pay, which itself was almost killed before it got off the ground.

"I was all over the place," says Eagle in his definite Teesside accent, "I did voice over work and audio production. I then did a job for a charity teaching computers to blind people. Michael was an RE teacher.

"Sean did a lot of educational projects and he was the resident story-

teller in a Manchester school. Then we all decided it was untenable to finish a day's work, zoom down the motorway to do a gig or a festival all weekend and then get back on Monday around 2am before going back to work again.

"It was more of an easy decision for me because I was already down to three days to accommodate freelance work.

"Michael's was probably the hardest decision. He was on a much bigger wage and in a proper, respected job.

"He did nearly put the scuppers on it because we had just decided to do it and he said I have just seen this placement at a grammar school and the salary is much better, but it would mean if I was going to do that then essentially I would have to knock the folk singing on the head entirely.

"Fortunately Mike came to his senses, remained with the dark side and stayed true to folk music," laughs Eagle.

The Young'uns play The Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath, Birmingham on May 13. Doors open at 7.15pm, the show starting 7.45pm. Tickets are £11.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.
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For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Crew tackled fire underground

SMOKE billowed from a manhole cover in a road near Stourbridge after an underground fire broke out.

Firefighters were called to Barbrook Drive, in Amblecote, last week, to tackle the blaze.

Crews from Stourbridge used a carbon dioxide extinguisher to put out the flames coming from an underground junction box.

Electricity supplies had to be isolated in the area while the crew waited for engineers to arrive at the scene by the mid-morning.

The pavement had been cordoned off during the fire.

National Grid worked to make repairs.

Life-saving medics training for hazards



James Pitt, from Tividale, squeezes through the course

IT looked like a full-blown disaster area, but skilled medics were just carrying out vital training.

The niche team of Black Country paramedics, who are called on to treat people stuck in difficult places, have been busy honing their skills at an outdoor adventure centre near Bridgnorth.

Live The Adventure, in Stottesdon, played host to the annual training of the West Midlands Hazardous Area Response Team, known as HART, by opening its doors free of charge.

The team of six were underground at the centre after their instructors set up an emergency disaster scenario where someone needing medical attention had become stuck in the confined tunnel system.

The team had to monitor the safety of the situation, get in and locate the person before carefully extracting them to safety.

Team leader Carl Cooper said: "We are paramedics who are trained in urban search and rescue, and reaching and treating people in confined spaces. "So if someone is stuck in a tunnel or sewer or there is a structural collapse and they need emergency medical attention, we can take the care to them."

Philippa compere for choral concert

TELEVISION presenter Philippa Tomson, who is originally from Stourbridge, will be the compere for a Kingswinford choir's spring concert later this month.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir will be performing at the recently re-opened Dudley Town Hall on Saturday, May 16, at 7.30pm.

The Songsters' special guests for the concert will be the Cradley Heath-based choir Voices In Harmony, formerly known as The Sandwell Community Choir, formed in 1997.

Philippa Tomson, aged 37, is a former chief reporter with the Express & Star who began her career in journalism on the Dudley Chronicle. She has also been featured on ITV Central and presented the weather forecasts for Daybreak and GMTV.

Tickets for the concert are £10 and are available by calling the ticket hotline on 01746 763850.

Black Country group swoops to save metal pressings jobs

NEARLY 40 jobs have been saved after a Black Country metal pressings firm swooped to buy a Birmingham rival out of administration.

The deal has created a new metal pressings group with a two-year plan targeting sales of £10 million.

Millennium Assemblies was founded last year to look for opportunities to acquire new businesses to work alongside sister company Millen-

nium Pressed Metal. Founded in 2000 by Anna Stevenson, Millennium Pressed Metal has grown to employ 45 people and two years ago moved to a new 33,000 sq ft based in West Bromwich after outgrowing its Dudley home.

Now Anna is working with manufacturing veteran John Faulkner, the former managing director of Tipton's Cab Automotive, to create the Millennium Manufacturing Group.

Its first move has been to buy JJ Engineering, at Garretts Green, saving 39 jobs. It will now

be renamed Millennium Assemblies, with Mr Faulkner taking the helm.

The acquisition, supported by Crowe Clark Whitehill and the Wilkes Partnership, was completed late on Friday afternoon. The terms have not been disclosed.

John Faulkner said: "JJ Engineering has a great workforce and a long history of supplying quality metal parts. The team shares our commitment to world class manufacturing, innovation and customer service."

Missing Magic sparks plea

A CAT has gone missing from a care home near Stourbridge after climbing into the back of a visitor's car.

Magic the cat went missing from Forrester Nursing Home, in Walton Pool Lane, Clent, on April 1. It is believed he jumped into the back of a car of a relative visiting the the home.

Apparently he got out at The Swan Inn, in Fairfield, but has not been seen since. He is a white and black, short haired, neutered Tom.

Care home staff say residents and staff miss Magic greatly. Anyone with information is asked to call 01562 883068.

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Visit the wonderful 16th century city of Valletta and enjoy a guided walking tour. The area has a Mediterranean atmosphere and appearance, with quiet squares lined with restaurants and intricate wrought iron balconies. A day is also spent on the nearby island of Gozo visiting its capital Victoria, and Ggantija, the largest and best preserved of the island's prehistoric temple sites.

Take the short drive to ancient Mdina, the jewel in the crown of the entire island and until medieval times, Malta's capital. Perched on a hill and surrounded by huge walls, its narrow streets and alleys ooze history.

A visit is also made to the amazing Neolithic temples at Tarxien, which date between 3,000 and 1,800 BC and showcase the ancient cultures of Malta.



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- Tour of the island of Gozo
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of the
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- Entrance to the gardens at Levens Hall
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Two days departing August 1



PRICE FROM **£119**

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- Visit to Windsor
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Sinatra The Man and his Music at the London Palladium

Two days departing September 5



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- Visit to Ronda
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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What rotters

Dirty Rotten
Scoundrels
Page 31



Time of her life

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Jimmy Carr



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 Often described as the hardest working comedian on the circuit, and a glance at his tour itinerary shows why, the gag machine with the distinctive guffaw is back with his Funny Business show. [See www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

ROCK & POP

Joe McElderry
 Sat at 6.45pm
 £15 - £20.90
 Wulfrun Hall,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.
 01902 552106

Bon Giovi
 Friday at 7.30pm
 £12 - £13
 The Robin 2 Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 01902 401211

S Club 7
 Thu at 7.30pm, £40.08 - £51.33
 Genting Arena Birmingham, B40 1NT. 0121 780 4141

Beholder
 Sat at 6.45pm, £8.55
 O2 Academy Birmingham B1 1DB. 0121 622 8250

Valous
 Sun at 6pm, £5 adv
 The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf,
 Birmingham, B1 2NU.
 0121 236 2421

Clare Maguire
 Fri at 8pm, £7
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

COMEDY

Stewart Lee – A Room With A Stew
 Sat at 8pm, £21
 Symphony Hall,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 0121 780 3333

Jimmy Carr – Funny Business
 Sat at 8pm, £27.50
 Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1RD. 0870 320 7000

Comedy & Carousel
 Thu at 7pm,
 £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

Tim Vine
 Fri at 7.30pm, £21 - £24.20
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 01543 412121

CLASSICAL & OPERA

Royal Ballet: La Fille Mal Gardée
 Tue at 7.15pm, £11 - £18
 Light House, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1HT.
 01902 716055

Rachmaninoff Vespers
 Sun at 4pm, £9.50 - £35
 Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
 0121 780 3333

CBSO Haydn in London
 Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 £12.50 - £41
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. 0121 780 3333

Joe McElderry



Saturday, 7.30pm
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
 The X Factor winner in 2009, the singer from South Shields went on to win Popstar to Operastar and the first series of The Jump. The 23-year-old crooner returns with his Evolution tour. [See www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

CBSO Friday Night Classics
 Fri at 7.30pm,
 £10 - £32
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham B1 2EA. 0121 780 3333

COUNTRY & FOLK/BLUES

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm, £2
 Pigot Arms, Pittingham, WV6 7BQ. 01902 700207

Black Diamond Singers Night
 Fri at 8.30pm, Check for admission charges
 The Lamp Tavern, Barford Street,
 Birmingham, B5 6AH.
 0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm, £1
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
 Walsall Road, WV3 4BP.
 01922 682018

Altan
 Thu at 8pm, £18 - £20
 mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. 0121 446 3232

Charley Pride
 Mon at 7.30pm, £30 - £40
 Symphony Hall, Broad Street,
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 0121 780 3333

The Full English
 Thu at 7.30pm, £21.50
 Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
 0121 780 3333

Rebecca Downes + ...
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 01902 401211

Dustin Kensrue
 Wed at 7pm, £18.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. 0871 472 0400

ALTERNATIVE & INDIE

Jack Rocks The Road To...
 Mon at 7pm - 11pm, £5 adv
 The Institute, B5 6DY.
 0121 643 0428

Pinkshinyultrablust
 Thu at 7pm, £6 adv
 The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY. 0121 643 0428

SKA/REGGAE

Fudgestock 2015
 Sun at 5pm, £5 - £6
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 01902 401211

Balkanic Eruption - CUMBIA SPECIAL, Sat at 9pm, £6

Stewart Lee



Saturday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
 Lee hasn't had the stadium success of some comedians and that's the way he likes it. He regularly sells out venues and has the respect of other comics, although some have been known to nick his jokes. [See www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,
 B14 7JZ. 0844 870 0000

WaDaDa - Live Ska Reggae
 Mon at 8pm, £10
 Hare & Hounds, High Street,
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ. 0844 870 0000

DANCE

Embraced Burlesque
 Sat at 8pm, £10
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 01902 572090

Catapult Club feat. Plastic Factory
 Sat at 6pm, £7.05
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. 0121 622 8250

EXHIBITIONS

Artists for Ikon
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free
 Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
 0121 248 0708

Siân Macfarlane
 Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

St Ives Artists
 Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
 0121 303 1966

Faith & Action
 Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Poetic Impossibility...
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm,
 Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

The Current Situation
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
 Free, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. 01902 552055

Floralia Festival
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon at 11am - 5pm,

Free. Wightwick Manor, WV6 8EE. 01902 760100

On The Right Tracks
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
 Free, Bantock House Museum, WV3 9LQ. 01902 552195

Bilston's Happy Housing
 Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, free,
 Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, WV14 7LJ.
 01902 552507

Found
 Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm,
 Free, New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

The Clive Beardsmore Gift
 Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
 New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. 01922 654400

Love is Enough
 Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, £3 - £7
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH. 0121 303 1966

Robert Groves
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free
 Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
 0121 248 0708

A Touch of Glass
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
 Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ.
 01384 812750

THEATRES

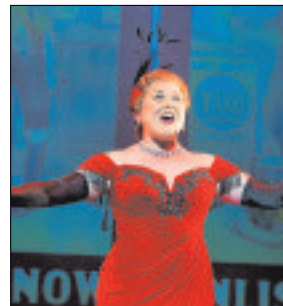
Dirty Dancing
 Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £20 - £55
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. 0844 338 5000

The Bodyguard The Musical
 Sat at 2.30pm, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
 Wolverhampton Grand, WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Collidoscope
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £12
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. 01902 321321

Feed The Beast
 Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £12 - £20
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Oh What A Lovely War



Tuesday to Saturday, 7 or 7.30pm, 2pm, Birmingham Rep
 Coronation Street's Wendi Peters joins the ensemble cast for a revival of Joan Littlewood's sharp satire contrasting First World War music hall songs with the carnage of the trenches. [See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk)

Rebecca
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

First Stages - Open House
 Sat at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm, £6 - £9
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Oh What A Lovely War
 Tue at 7pm, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, £13.50 - £35
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Sister Act
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £18
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 01543 412121

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £53.40
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
 0844 871 3011

The Pirates of Penzance
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £7.50 - £15
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 0121 643 5858

Sister Act
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £18
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 0121 643 5858

A Night at the Music Hall
 Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £14.50
 Wolverhampton Grand, WV1 1DE. 01902 573320

Open Door With Bold Text
 Tue at 8pm, Free
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. 0121 236 4455

Five Kinds of Silence
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10
 The Old Joint Stock, Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
 0121 200 1892

Our Day Out
 Thu at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 01543 578762

ACOUSTIC

Tia McGrath
 Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 01902 401211

HIP HOP/R&B

Mobb Deep "The Infamous...
 Fri at 6pm, £29.81 - £112.50
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. 0121 622 8250

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Keeping a watch out for Scoundrels



Scam-tastic, it's the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels cast for Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre — Michael Praed (as Lawrence), Carley Stenson (Christine), Noel Sullivan (Freddy) and Mark Benton (Andre) Photograph by Paul Rider

LIVE the Riviera life in Brum next week when eagerly-awaited comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels arrives for a fortnight run at the New Alexandra Theatre.

Direct from London's West End, where it ran for a year to rave reviews and packed houses, the hit show is

based on the classic 1988 movie starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin as a pair of conmen operating in the South of France.

The chalk and cheese partners end up vying with each other to scam a millionaire heiress.

The cast for the May 5 to 16 run in

Birmingham is led by former Robin of Sherwood star Michael Praed as Lawrence with former Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan as Freddy, Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton plays Andre.

They are joined by Carley Stenson from Hollyoaks as Christine, the object of their desires.

Star role start for Jessie, 22

A RISING star of the stage from Dudley will take on a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing when it comes to Birmingham Hippodrome.

Drama school graduate Jessie Hart, from Wall Heath, will star as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the Birmingham theatre, which starts tonight.

The 22-year-old actress recently graduated from the Mountview of Theatre Arts in London and also appeared in ITV drama Arthur and George. She said: "Birmingham Hippodrome was where I saw the first show I can remember. I saw Miss Saigon there when I was about 11 with all my family. It was my favourite ever show and I'll never forget it. It's crazy to think that I will open my run of the tour, playing the leading role, Baby, on that same stage."

Lewis Kirk will star alongside her as Johnny Castle, the role that was famously played by Patrick Swayze in the 1987 film. It tells the story of two fiercely independent young people from different worlds, who fall in love at a holiday resort. It features hit songs, including Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.

Fans of the cult classic movie will delight in this stage version, particularly the famous set pieces including the line 'Nobody puts Baby in a corner' and the famous lift dance move that gets roars of approval. It has been adapted for the stage by the movie's writer Eleanor Bergstein and the production values are worthy of the West End.

Dirty Dancing will run at the Hippodrome until May 23.

Rockers coming home for concert

BLACK Country rock band Martyr De Mona — who have opened for Black Stone Cherry and the legendary Slash on tour — have announced a new gig in their home region.

Described by Midlands Rocks as 'undoubtedly the Midlands' hottest band at the moment!', Martyr De Mona will be taking to the stage at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on December 18.

The Stourbridge band have already supported Black Sabbath, Avenged Sevenfold, and Alter Bridge.

Tickets start at £8.80 (including booking fee) and are available from Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000 or online at the www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

War and many a music hall piece

JOAN Littlewood's musical Oh What A Lovely War is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Directed by University of Birmingham graduate, Terry Johnson, the revival is at The Rep from May 5 to 9 as the final venue of the show's UK tour.

The satirical show about the First World War, in which songs of the era are performed against a backdrop conveying the harsh realities of war, will feature Ian Reddington (Eastenders, Coronation Street), Christopher Villiers (Emmerdale) and Wendi Peters, best known as Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street, in the cast. See the website www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Ricky and co are kings of the castle

WARWICK Castle will be the location for Sounds in the Grounds this summer, a pair of concerts for rock and classical music fans.

The event will kick off on July 10 with a gig by Kaiser Chiefs, featuring singer and The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, with support from rapper Professor Green and rising star singer Ella Eyre. Then on July 11 The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra present a Proms style repertoire for flag-waving crowds. Special guest will be The Voice 2015 runner-up, Dublin opera singer Lucy O'Byrne.

For more information see www.soundsinthegrounds.com

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Adults £28.00 O.A.P. £26.00 Child £22.00
Children under 3 free
Price includes admission to zoo

Saturday 13th June YORK
Adults £16 OAP £15 Child £14

Saturday 20th June BURY MARKET
Adults £15 OAP £14 Child £13

Thursday 25th June BLENHEIM PALACE
Adults £30 OAP £28 Child £22

www.coachtravel4u.co.uk
Pick up times vary Ask when booking
12, Louise Street, Gornal Wood, Dudley
01902 670387

Oldbury REP 75

May 9th -16th
'A DOLL'S HOUSE'
by Henrik Ibsen

Ibsen's classic play tells the story of Nora, wife of Torvald Helmer, who has secretly borrowed money by forging her father's signature. When her creditor threatens to expose the crime a web of lies and deceit threatens to destroy the very fabric of her life.
Ticket Prices: Mon - Tue Special Price £8, Wed - Sat £10, Concessions £9

FILMS AT OLD BURY REP
Friday 29th May 'Mr. Turner' (12a) directed by Mike Leigh and starring Timothy Spall
Friday 12th June 'The Hundred Foot Journey (PG)', starring Helen Mirren
All tickets still £3.50
All stage and film performances start at 7.30pm
Free adjacent car park (CCTV), Lounge, Bar, Facilities for the disabled
Now booking! Box Office 0121 552 2761
Box Office open Monday evening from 7.30pm, Friday evening prior to the main house production and the night of the production at 7:00pm.
Spring Walk, Langley B64 4SP
On Line Booking now available on our website www.oldburyrep.org



Historic Muncaster Castle, still a lived-in family home, is the jewel in the crown



Ravenglass & Eskdale steam railway is popular



Rivers meet sea – coastal hamlet Ravenglass lies on the estuary of three rivers



Stunning countryside will greet you

This country break was fit for royalty and certainly suited me

ONE of the most naturally beautiful regions in England, the Lake District has long inspired the nation.

From William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets to the death of Joe McIntyre in Coronation Street, the Lakes have inspired popular culture as well as bringing in tourists with its stunning scenery and welcoming retreats.

Foremost in popularity is, of course, Windermere – the largest lake in the country. But dig a little further afield and there are plenty of fantastic finds spread across Cumbria.

Take, for example, the haven of Ravenglass. Home to roughly 200 residents it is the only coastal settlement in the region and sits on the mouths of three rivers – the Esk, Mite and Irt. Dating back to the Second

By Leigh Sanders

Century it was an important naval base to the Romans and is steeped in history.

From the visible remains of a Roman bathhouse to the stunning Muncaster Castle lying a mile or so inland, there is plenty to keep you occupied while abandoning the rigours of driving for a couple of days.

Haunted

Muncaster is a must for anyone visiting the area. It is home to many ghostly tales and strange happenings which add to its intrigue. You can rent it out privately for any function ranging from university reunions to weddings. One of the main legends surrounds the wandering, dethroned Henry VI after a defeat in the War of the Roses.

After being given sanctuary at Muncaster, on his leaving he gave his drinking bowl

to the Pennington family declaring that as long as it stayed intact they would live and thrive in the place.

There is talk of a haunted bedroom, which needs to be seen before trying to make up your mind, while the legend of Tom Fool and his tenure as jester to the Pennington family landed the word 'tomfoolery' into our language and led to the brewing of a rather scrumptious ale in the area.

But topping all the history is the stunning views northwards over the Eskdale Valley towards Scafell Pike – England's highest mountain. Ruskin described it as 'the gateway to paradise', and standing outside the castle's main entrance you can see why. The grounds are extensive, hosting many walks, and there is the World Owl Centre – home to an extremely rare Ethiopian eagle owl. When your feet are all walked out, Ravenglass hosts three great

locations to recharge with food and drink. The Pennington Hotel restaurant, The Inn @ Ravenglass and The Ratty Arms all serve up tantalising fish dishes and a bevy of locally brewed ales.

Other than the impressive Muncaster and the historic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway that provides transport inland to Dalegarth and Boot, there is no real need to pay entry to an attraction. Thousands of strolls await.

Once you have seen the coast it is worth heading inland to see what else the Lakes have to offer. If the tourist-orientated Windermere isn't to your taste then head north through Kirkstone Pass towards Ullswater – the second largest expanse of water. Kirkstone Pass offers too many Middle Earth-esque views to mention.

If a country break is what you require then look no further.

Shenapur

Indian Cuisine



We are proud to introduce new Head Chef 'Ahad' and our exciting new menu.

***10% reduction against the cost of your meal on production of this advertisement when dining in or collecting your takeaway.**

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*We are sorry this offer is not available on our Sunday Evening fixed price menu.

Serving up new menu – and chef

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THE Shenapur has been serving up the finest traditional Indian Cuisine in Hagley for more than 19 years and has become one of the most popular destinations in the West Midlands for Indian food lovers.

This smart restaurant on Worcester Road has built an enviable reputation for serving its customers the finest recipes from all corners of India whilst offering many exclusive dishes that reflect the changing food trends in contemporary dining and now things have moved on again with the appointment of new head chef Ahad.

Excited

"We are proud and excited about Ahad's appointment" explains Shenapur's proprietor Ali. "Ahad is a modern contemporary chef with more than 30 years experience and he and his staff have introduced a brand new menu which will retain all the favourites which have made the restaurant so popular whilst introducing a fantastic new range of innovative and creative dishes to tantalize your taste buds"

The new menu offers the varied and delicious taste of Indian food gleaned from traditional homes all over the sub continent, something which has always set the Shenapur apart.

And under the expert guidance of new head chef Ahad and his experienced team of chefs, who use their considerable expertise to further enhance this wonderful Indian cuisine by combining it with the restaurant's own unique style of distinctive aromas, fla-



Owner Angur Ali, right, with head Chef Abdul Ahad at Shenapur

vours and presentation, they will provide a dining experience that is sure to excite the palate and make your meal a memorable one.

There is also an extensive range of appetizers and desserts to complement your dining experience.

You can always be confident of the quality of food and Shenapur's impeccable cleanliness record with Bromsgrove District Council rating the restaurant with a 'very good' four-star food hygiene rating.

Ahad is very keen to demonstrate his

culinary skills, flexibility and passion for Indian cooking and he and his team are happy to style any dish to suit your personal taste.

So if you are a regular diner at the Shenapur, or are considering visiting for the first time to experience unforgettable food served up in an informal and friendly atmosphere, there has never been a better time to join us with a 10 per cent reduction against the cost of your meal on production of our advertisement.

We hope to see you soon.

CHOICE



NCIS
Channel 5, 8.20pm
The shooting of a petty officer looks like an open-and-shut case when a Russian man is found with a recently fired gun in his car. However, the investigation takes a dramatic turn when it is revealed he is working as a spy for the Department of Homeland Security. American drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that investigates cases involving the US Navy and Marine Corps. Starring Mark Harmon alongside Michael Weatherly, Pauley Perrette, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, Lauren Holly, Armando Molina, VJ Foster, Nolan North, Albie Selznick, Ravil Isyanov, Geoff Pierson

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Football Focus: Championship Special. **2.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Film: WALL-E. (2008) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt. **6.40** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **6.55** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong quizzes a line-up of contestants who work on shows with a wildlife or natural history theme. They are birdwatcher Bill Oddie and historian Tessa Dunlop. Countryfile presentsers John Craven and Shauna Lowry, TV gardener Diarmuid Gavin and Coast presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff, and Blue Peter hosts-turned-wildlife presenters Helen Skelton and Radzi Chinyanganya. Richard Osman is the man with the answers. **7.45** **Atlantis.** Jason's discovery has blackened his heart, leaving him careless and foolhardy – so a concerned Pythagoras sets out in search of someone who can help save his friend. **8.30** **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with guest Brian Conley. **9.20** **Casualty.** Connie goes on trial for Alfred's murder. Rila suspects a young girl who cut her wrists is being abused and Mac helps a woman cope with her mother, who has dementia. **10.10** BBC News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Liverpool v Queens Park Rangers and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update. **11.55** **The Football League Show.** **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Gambling House. (1950) **7.35** Film: The Red Beret. (1953) **9.00** The Nature of Britain. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.20** Timewatch: Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler. (R) **3.10** Timewatch: The Making of Adolf Hitler. (R) **4.00** The World's Most Photographed. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **5.30** Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire: Natural World. (R) **6.30** **Dad's Army.** First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Maimwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Neil Robertson, with both men aiming to reach their second final, and it was Selby who prevailed 17-15 in an encounter that lasted more than 12 hours. The commentary team includes Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **9.30** Film: **Quartet.** (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Toni Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon. **11.00** **QI XL.** Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle. (R) **11.50** Film: **Perfume: The Story of a Murderer.** (2006) Period thriller, with Ben Whishaw, Dustin Hoffman and Alan Rickman. **2.00** Film: Honeymoon. (2010)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.45** Doc Martin. (R) **2.50** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** Film: The Great Outdoors. (1988) Comedy, starring John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00** **New You've Been Framed!** **Unleashed!** Painful pranks, below-the-belt mishaps and stunts gone wrong are on the menu in this special edition, as Harry Hill reveals some of the wildest accidents caught on camera by viewers. **7.00** **Ninja Warrior UK.** Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the fourth heat of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the fourth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and worst, performers. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, the dream will be over for those whose auditions are cut short by the panel. **9.15** **Play to the Whistle.** Team captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Dermot O'Leary and Romesh Ranganathan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.15** Film: **Cliffhanger.** (1993) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Challenge Dubai. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.20** **Come Dine with Me.** Estate agent Wendy Tinnion hosts the final night in Cumbria, and her guests are in for a shock when they discover something unexpected. (R) **6.45** **Channel 4 News.** **7.15** **For the Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister gets to fulfil an ultimate high-octane dream and drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars. Alongside him is former cop Ant Anstead, who demonstrates how to master these versatile vehicles. The duo get to work restoring a Rover SD1 discovered on a driveway in Essex, and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit re-enacting the notorious "Liver Run", accompanied by out-riders on the M11, and through the busy streets of London. (R) **8.15** Film: **Men in Black II.** (2002) Agent J investigates the unauthorised landing of a spacecraft and discovers a malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model is on the verge of destroying humanity. His only hope of stopping her diabolical plot is to restore the memory of his retired partner K – but his former mentor takes more than a little convincing. Sci-fi comedy sequel, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Rosario Dawson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Johnny Knoxville, Rip Torn and Tony Shalhoub. **10.00** Film: **Dredd.** (2012) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey. **11.55** **Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies.** The Office co-creator's critically acclaimed 2011 stand-up comedy show, based on his experiences of the rocky road to finding love. (R) **12.55** The Last Leg. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.05** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.00** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **2.00** Film: Columbo Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.55** Film: Secret Liaison. (2013) Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe. **5.35** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.30** **Britain's Horror Homes.** A man who turned his house into a fortress after being burgled 10 times, and an engineer who devised a plan to reduce the risk of his property being flooded again. (R) **7.20** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul Bohlil and Ben Pinner are called in to evict squatters from a residential property, and it soon becomes clear that things are not quite what they seem. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred arrive at a restaurant in north London to collect unpaid rent, but the situation becomes heated and the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R) **8.15** **5 News Weekend.** **8.20** **NCIS.** A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. (R) **9.10** **NCIS.** The team investigates the murder of a lance corporal, whose body has been found in an empty house, and discovers he had a number of spurned lovers and a \$2million inheritance. Ducky and Gibbs interview one of the dead marine's partners, but disagree over whether she is telling the truth. David McCallum and Mark Harmon star. (R) **10.10** **CBSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A caped vigilante is killed while trying to protect a homeless man from a brutal gang, and footage of vandals attacking a shop on the same night offers a potential line of inquiry. **11.05** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A teenage girl is hurt in a fall, but doctors discover she is also suffering from injuries sustained in an attack, setting Benson and Stabler off on a search for her assailant. (R) **12.05** SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D **7.10** Top Gear **8.10** Don't Tell the Bride **9.10** Live at the Apollo **10.10** Happy Valley **11.10** Family Guy **1.55** Killer Magi **1.55** Live at the Apollo **2.55** Tatau **3.35** Vodka Diaries **4.00** Close **BBC Four**
7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.15** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **1.15** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **2.15** Wild China **3.15** Close **ITV2**
11.05 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** A Night in with Ollly Murs **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Film: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993) **4.30** Mr Bean **5.40** Film: Johnny English (2003) **7.30** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice: Keith's Birthday Party **11.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.05** Crazy Beaches **ITV3**
11.15 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.20** Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **3.15** Wycliffe **4.25** Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Inspector Morse **1.25** Wire in the Blood **ITV4**
11.25 Pawn Stars **2.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage of the inaugural race. **4.00** Storage Wars **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Shed and Buried **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** Film: From Russia with Love (1963) **10.25** Film: Manny (2014) **EA**
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Jane the Virgin **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The IT Crowd **12.25** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Rude Tube **2.25** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **3.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **2.55** The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) **5.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **7.15** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** Season of the Witch (2011) **10.45** The Pact (2012) **12.30** Scary Movie 2 (2001) **2.10** Shutter (2008) **3.55** Close



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CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

Live Snooker: The World Championship (BBC2, 7.00pm)
Hazel Irvine presents all the latest action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. The team will certainly be able to relate to the pressure felt by the players here today. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** **Countryfile**. The team celebrates spring, as Matt Baker meets orphan lambs in north Wales, Ellie Harrison listens to seasonal sounds and Anita Rani visits an unusual barbecue. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **7.30** **Antiques Roadshow**. A visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, where items include insect jewellery, a silver cup from the time of Oliver Cromwell and a claymore sword from the Boer War. **8.30** **The C Word**. Sheridan Smith stars in this drama based on the blog and book by Lisa Lynch, an account of her life after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Twenty-eight-year-old Lisa's life is going exactly the way she wanted – she has recently married the man of her dreams and her career is on the up. Then out of the blue, she receives a shocking a diagnosis from the doctor that threatens to stop her in her tracks. Right from the start, however, Lisa is determined not to let cancer change her, and begins to write about her experience – unaware of the effect it will have on her life and that of others. Paul Nicholls, Haydn Gwynne and Michael Maloney co-star. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at White Hart Lane and Chelsea v Crystal Palace. **11.35** **The Football League Show**. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the final weekend of the regular season in League One, including Colchester United v Preston North End. **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** **Countryfile**. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.10** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.40** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.40** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.40** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre. **6.00** **Flag III** David Fletcher and Anita Manning search for collectibles at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, valuing items including Murano glass figurines and a Newcastle shipyard visitors' book. Paul Martin also explores the building's State Rooms, learning about the Percy family's tastes. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship**. Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **11.00** **W1A**. Anna puts herself forward for the newly advertised role of Head of Better, and rumours circulate that Newsnight anchor Evan Davis is to be a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. (R) **11.30** **Film: The Accidental Husband**. (2008) A radio host planning her wedding discovers she is already legally married to a man she has never even met. Romantic comedy, with Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. **12.50** **Sign Zone: Countryfile**. From the Peak District, with items on making the countryside accessible to the disabled, the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, the Pennine Way and preventing hayfever. (R) **1.50** **Holby City**. Annabelle and Zosia disagree with Guy over a special case, a new pair of shoes gets Serena into an embarrassing situation with a new admirer and Mo arranges to meet her real father. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** **Cinimals**. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** **ITV News**. **8.30** **Weekend**. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.35** **ITV News: Weather**. **7.00** **ITV News: Weather**. **7.15** **Celebrity Squares**. Julian Clary, Katherine Ryan, Paul Hollywood, Ugo Monye, Hayley Jamaddon, Doo Mackichan and Paul Doo Mackichan join regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts. **8.00** **Sunday Night at the Palladium**. New series. Bradley Walsh hosts the variety show this week, with performances by Oily Murs, Madness, Alfie Boe, Jo Brand, slapstick duo Men in Coats and animal act Olate Dogs. **9.00** **Home Fires**. New series. Drama about the lives of a group of Women's Institute members in a rural Cheshire community during the Second World War. In the face of an impending conflict with Germany, the Great Paxford WI faces a difficult decision. When president Joyce Cameron resigns, taking most of the membership with her, Frances Barden and her supporters must recruit new helpers from unexpected places. Starring Samantha Bond, Francesa Annis, Ruth Gemmell, Claire Rushbrook and Frances Grey, with Ed Stoppard and Mark Bazely. **10.05** **ITV News: Weather**. **10.20** **Perspectives: Rick Wakeman on Vivaldi's Four Seasons**. The prog rock keyboardist explores the story of the famous classical piece, finding out why it disappeared into obscurity for more than 200 years after the composer's death. **11.20** **Churchill: 100 Days That Saved Britain**. (R) **12.15** **The Store**. **2.30** **Motorport UK**. **3.20** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA**. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Caterham Motorsports. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** **Fraser**. (R) **9.00** **Fraser**. (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch**. **12.30** **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces**. (R) **1.30** **Channel 4 Racing**. Including the 1,000 Guineas at 3.40. **4.00** **A Place in the Sun: Home or Away**. **5.00** **Channel 4 News**. **5.20** **Film: The Karate Kid**. (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan. **8.00** **For the Love of Cars**. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead turn their attention to the 1980s "hot hatch" – city run-a-rounds, such as the Volkswagen Golf GTi and Peugeot 205, which became must-haves for boy racers. They help transform a Golf GTi Mk 1 into a rally car and meet hatchback fanatics to discover why people are so passionate about these vehicles and how, for some, they defined an era. **9.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. New series. Jimmy Carr returns with this comedy version of the famous afternoon game show, with Sean Lock, Bill Bailey and Paul Foot going up against guest captain Sarah Millican with Rob Delaney and Ross Macdonald. Nina Conti joins Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner, while Rachel Riley looks after the letters and numbers at the board. **10.05** **An Immigrant's Guide to Britain**. Comedian and first-generation immigrant Henning Wehn leads an irreverent guide to life in Britain from the perspective of some of its most notoriously polarising inhabitants. **10.35** **Gogglebox**. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R) **11.40** **Bill Bailey Qualpmeddler**. Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey. (R) **12.40** **Film: 12 Rounds**. (2009) **2.35** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.30** **Film: Ashad Ka Ek Din**. (1971) **5.35** **The Common Denominator**. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** **Little Princess**. (R) **8.00** **Wanda and the Alien**. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** **Lazzy Town**. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**. (R) **10.35** **Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs**. (R) **11.25** **Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs**. (R) **12.20** **Ultimate Police Interceptors**. (R) **1.20** **Film: Blue Streak**. (1999) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05** **Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure**. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00** **Film: Holes**. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **7.05** **5 News Weekend**. **7.10** **Film: Legally Blonde**. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language. **9.00** **Film: Resident Evil: Afterlife**. (2010) Premiere. Zombie-fighting heroine Alice roams the post-apocalyptic wasteland searching for human survivors. An encounter with an old friend leads her to a renowned sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller. **11.05** **Film: Gamer**. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall. **12.45** **Jackson**. (R) **1.15** **SuperCasino**. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** **GPs: Behind Closed Doors**. Dr. Opony sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** **House Doctor**. (R) **4.25** **Make It Big**. (R) **5.15** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **Live** **Diving**. Coverage of the World Series event in London. **8.05** **Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull** (2008) **10.00** **Tatau** **10.45** **Family Guy** **11.30** **American Dad!** **11.55** **Family Guy** **12.15** **Tatau** **1.00** **Teen Model Factory: Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia** **1.55** **Killer Magic** **2.25** **Flat TV** **2.45** **Tatau** **3.30** **Killer Magic** **4.00** **Close**
BBC Four
7.00 **10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis** **8.00** **National Gallery: A Film by Frederick Wiseman** **10.55** **Imagine** – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **12.20** **Rod Stewart at the BBC** **1.20** **BBC Young Dancer** **2015** **2.20** **10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis** **3.20** **Close**
ITV2
12.00 **Take Me Out** **1.10** **Scorpion** **2.05** **Film: Scooby-Doo** (2002) **3.55** **Film: Homewreck** **Bound** **1.1** **Lost in San Francisco** (1996) **5.40** **Britain's Got Talent** **7.00** **Britain's Got More Talent** **8.00** **You've Been Framed!** **Yearbook** **9.00** **Film: Knocked Out** (2007) **11.35** **Film: The Bourne Ultimatum** (2007) **1.45** **Mom** **2.30** **Teleshopping**
ITV3
11.55 **Wycliffe** **1.00** **Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting** (1971) **2.40** **Lewis** **4.45** **A Touch of Frost** **6.50** **Inspector Morse** **9.00** **The Best of the Royal Variety** **10.00** **Wycliffe** **11.10** **Film: The Color Purple** (1985) **2.05** **Secret Smile** **3.20** **ITV3 Nightscreen** **3.40** **Emmerdale**
ITV4
11.50 **Pawn Stars** **12.45** **Film: Tobruk** (1967) **3.00** **Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live**. Coverage of the third and final stage of the inaugural race. **5.00** **Storage Wars** **6.00** **Storage Wars: Texas** **7.00** **Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire** **8.00** **Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training** (1986) **9.45** **Film: National Lampoon's Vacation** (1983) **11.50** **Film: Buried** (2010) **1.40** **I Want That Car** **2.30** **Whisker Wars** **2.55** **ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00** **Teleshopping**
E4
12.00 **Made in Chelsea** **1.00** **Revenge** **2.00** **Jane the Virgin** **3.00** **The Goldbergs** **4.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: St Trinian's** (2007) **10.00** **The IT Crowd** **11.00** **The Inbetweeners** **12.10** **Rude Tube** **1.15** **Virtually Famous**
Film4
11.00 **Carry On Up the Khyber** (1968) **1.00** **Mighty Joe Young** (1998) **3.15** **Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer** (2011) **5.00** **Jumper** (2008) **6.45** **Multiplicity** (1996) **9.00** **Men in Black 3** (2012) **11.10** **Monsters** (2010) **1.00** **20,000 Days on Earth** (2014) **3.10** **Close**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lord of War, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A Ukrainian immigrant in New York sells guns to local mobsters, and when he gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry at the end of the Cold War he expands his operation overseas – but makes the mistake of doing business with an African warlord. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan, Eamonn Walker and Ian Holm. (2005)

TUESDAY
=Far and Away, Channel 5, 11pm
Penniless Irish farmer Joseph seeks revenge on the cruel landowner who drove him from his home. However, the landlord's daughter, desperate to escape her family, persuades him to join her in seeking their fortune in America. Romantic drama set in the 1890s, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. (1992)



Dante's Peak, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY
A Few Best Men, BBC1, 11.20pm
An Englishman falls in love with a woman he meets on holiday in Australia, and asks her to marry him. However, he then makes the mistake of bringing three friends over to be his best men. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel, Laura Brent and Kris Marshall. (2011)

THURSDAY
Kinky Boots, BBC2, 10.30pm
A man inherits a struggling shoe factory, but salvation arrives when a Soho cabaret singer comes up with a plan for the business to manufacture specialist footwear for drag artists. However, the stunned workforce has to be won over, and the new designs prove their worth at a high-profile fashion show. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2005)

FRIDAY
Dante's Peak, ITV, 10.50pm
A volcanologist's suspicions that a long-dormant volcano is about to erupt turn out to be true, prompting him to race against time to save the community standing in its way – and clash with local government officials. Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton. (1997)

Shocking case leaves a race against time

Do we really need another new police drama? Well, it if it's written by Paul Abbott, the man who gave us Shameless and State of the Play, then yes, we probably do.

He certainly thinks that his new series, No Offence, is filling a gap in the TV market.

The writer explains: "No Offence came after searching for a concept that would match a Shameless landscape, which is enormous. I love cop shows, I love comedies, and nobody has found a blended set of ingredients that make that work and feel like the cop series I wanted to make."

Before fans of E4's import Brooklyn Nine-Nine start raising objections, Abbott makes it clear that his series can't really be called a sitcom.

"No Offence is proudly a procedural drama, but it's not what I started writing. I thought we were getting away with writing a comedy in my head, but it was just too big and eventually it got squeezed all

the way back down to near real life but not real life – it's heightened by two millimetres – and I think it is those two millimetres that define the personality of No Offence.

"You can't call it a comedy, as it's as dark as can be... and it gets darker and darker."

He adds: "No Offence is trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and we've done it beautifully, with a set of ingredients that don't look like they should belong together, but they do."

As it's no ordinary police show, it makes sense that the team are no ordinary coppers. Led by the very capable, but slightly unhinged DI Vivienne Deering (Joanna Scanlan), and her right-hand women DC Dinah Kowalska (Elaine Cassidy) and DS Joy Freers (Alexandra Roach), they work some very mean streets, which would leave lesser officers considering a change of career, but they largely take in their stride.

Abbott says: "I love watching people being good at their job. I remember I used to watch Casualty

when all they did was complain about the agency nurses and I'd shout 'go get another job! I don't want to watch people moaning about their occupation on TV – it's like being haunted by your eight-hour shift isn't it?'"

However, in this first episode, it looks like even this apparently unshockable team – which also includes Will Mellor as DC Spike Tanner and Colin Salmon as Det Supt Darren MacLaren – are about to be confronted with one of their most difficult case as Kowalska notices a pattern connecting the deaths of two young women. It seems the team could be dealing with a serial killer – and a third girl has gone missing...

Again, it may not sound original, but that's not really the point.

Abbott says: "I don't write for shock value. I think all crimes have been seen on television before, whether on the News At Ten or in a drama. But No Offence isn't about whether you've seen them before, it's about the attitude towards them. We've done it with such dignity and humanity."



Will Mellor stars in No Offence, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
How the Other Half Eat Channel 4, 7.30pm
Food shopping these days isn't simply a case of nipping down to the supermarket and picking up whatever takes your fancy. Instead, there's a startling array of products on offer, from no frills items that may lack a little finesse, to the most expensive, top-of-the-range produce whose packaging is almost a work of art in itself. And then there's a heap of stuff in between. This new series follows two families who live close to each other, but whose shopping and eating habits are miles apart. They change places for four days, during which they'll sample the food usually eaten by each other's families. Once the experiment is over, we'll discover whether they go back to their old ways, or change their approach for good.

VE Day: Remembering Victory BBC1, 8.30pm
On Friday May 8, it will be 70 years since Winston Churchill announced the Second World War in Europe was over, prompting Britain to throw the biggest street party the country has ever seen. David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the

end of the conflict. Narrated by Julie Walters, with contributions from others including Johnny Ball, Honor Blackman, Jilly Cooper, John Craven, Cleo Laine, Kenny Lynch, Michael Parkinson, Leslie Phillips, Anne Reid, Esther Rantzen, Patrick Stewart and Una Stubbs. VE Day: Live from the Cenotaph is on Friday on BBC One at 2.45pm.

TUESDAY
24 Hours in the Past BBC1, 9pm
Living reality documentary in which six celebrities experience the working lives of the poor in Victorian times. There's no rest for the unlucky volunteers after the fifth of the dustyard as they are sent to work at a recreated coaching inn – the 19th-century equivalent of the motorway service station. Alistair McGowan, Ann Widdecombe, Zoe Lucker, Colin Jackson, Tiger Drew-Honey and Miquita Oliver find themselves constantly against the clock as there are horses to be groomed, coaches to be cleaned, guests to be fed, sheets to be laundered and chamber pots to be emptied. Will they all have the stamina to survive the long hours and relentless grind - especially with two further days to go?



24 Hours in the Past, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Inspector George Gently BBC1, 8pm
All good things must come to an end, but that idea won't make it any easier for Gently to deal with losing Bacchus. His right-hand man has finally been promoted, which means he will need a new sergeant. But for now, Gently's attention is taken by an investigation into the discovery of a female GP's corpse on the moors. She suffered from mood swings and motor neurone disease, which makes the detective's colleagues think she committed suicide, but Gently is convinced she was murdered – and her estranged husband becomes the prime suspect. Feisty WPC Rachel Coles grew up in the area covered by the GP's practice, and helps with the inquiry – surely she would make the ideal replacement for Bacchus?

THURSDAY
Shark BBC1, 8.55pm
New series. Wildlife documentary venturing below the waves to examine the ocean predators' behaviour. The first film reveals their many different hunting methods, from blacktip sharks gathering in huge packs and herding fish into baitballs, to tasselled wobbegongs, which ambush their prey. Other highlights include Greenland sharks, which live under the arctic ice, whitetip reef sharks – arguably the masters of night-time hunting – and the great white, shown stalking fur seals off the coast of South Africa.

FRIDAY
Secrets of Great British Castles Channel 5, 8pm
Dan Jones explores the history of Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, one of the most ancient castles in Northern Ireland and a stronghold key to understanding the tempestuous relationship between Britain and Ireland. Dan travels to Rathlin island, where he reveals how hundreds of women and children were massacred in the name of Elizabeth I, and visits the tomb of former governor Arthur Chichester, who began a new colonisation strategy using scorched earth tactics and laid waste to much of the land surrounding the town.

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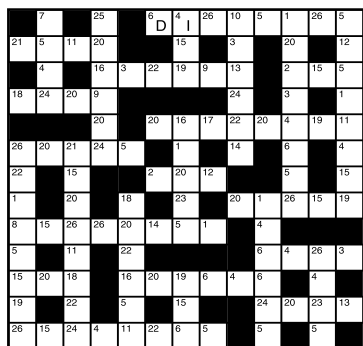
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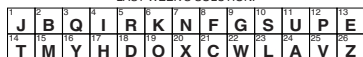
BRAIN GYM No.317

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

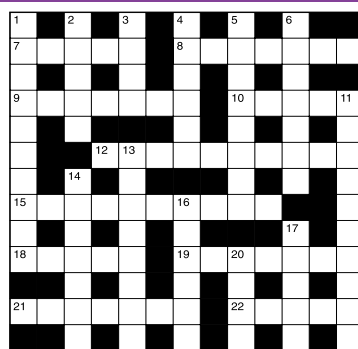
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. The way the tour is diverted to the East (5)
8. Becomes snarled up at corner in back-street (7)
9. An insult to a sea-side promenade, we hear (7)
10. The French travel south to Nigerian port (5)
12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4,6)
15. Right-handed key (6,4)
18. This coin was a sovereign (5)
- 19 & 13Dn. This will deceive the pupils (7,8)
21. Individual after different name for a flower (7)
22. Get to the bottom and connect the pipe-line (5)

Down

1. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
2. They went round the necks of thugs, we hear (5)
3. Famous fiddler in Stainer oratorio (4)
4. What the needle produces is an acute pain (6)
5. Take out of gear (8)
6. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
11. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
13. See 19 Across
14. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)
16. Mob round the East whooped in triumph (6)
17. Show disdain for one who recognises (5)
20. Betty Perkins to do some secretarial work inside (4)



Quick Clues:

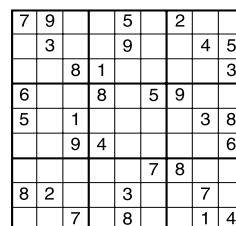
Across

7. Precept (5)
8. Flood (7)
9. A month (7)
10. Sugary (5)
12. Affirm (10)
15. Emphasise (10)
18. Lock (5)
19. Relations (7)
21. Dirty (7)
22. Goodbye (5)

Down

1. Book-keeper (10)
2. Join (5)
3. Door handle (4)
4. Famish (6)
5. Expectation (8)
6. Indefinite (7)
11. Huge (10)
13. Ominous (8)
14. Shriek (7)
16. Harsh (6)
17. Coach (5)
20. Tidy (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	3	5	1	7	6
7	6	1	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	2	3	6	1	7	9	8	4
6	4	7	5	2	3	8	1	9
9	8	2	4	7	1	3	5	6
3	1	5	8	9	6	4	2	7
2	5	9	3	6	8	7	4	1
8	7	4	1	5	2	6	9	3
1	3	6	7	4	9	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restraint; 8 Air; 9 Incantation; 11 Artist; 12 Posts; 13 Canvas; 15 Prefire; 17 Avast; 18 Celsius; 20 Tution fees; 22 Ewe; 23 Elephants. Down: 2 Eon; 3 Rings; 4 Images; 5 Tipper; 6 Sands of time; 7 Treasures; 10 Coloneaster; 11 Archangel; 14 Astride; 16 Scribb; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prostrate; 8 Let; 9 Storm-signal; 11 Builder; 12 Baste; 13 Idiosync; 15 Repose; 17 Knave; 18 Patriot; 20 Intercepted; 22 Set; 23 Respected. Down: 2 Rat; 3 Timid; 4 Aviary; 5 Ennoble; 6 Illusionist; 7 Statement; 10 Originality; 11 Briskness; 14 Creator; 16 Sports; 19 Theme; 21 Ere.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who is credited with discovering penicillin in 1928?
2. In which country are the Queen's bodyguards the Royal Company of Archers?
3. What was IRA man Dominic McGlinchey's nickname?
4. Who wrote Strangers on a Train?
5. Which bird has honey and rough-legged varieties?
6. Which country was formerly known as the Gold Coast?
7. Which skier is known as La Bomba?
8. Who wrote Our Man in Havana?
9. Which river divides Kentish Men from Men of Kent?
10. Which composer's Adagietto from his 5th Symphony was used in the film Death In Venice?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Henry VIII; 2 James Herriot; 3 Essex; 4 Rene Descartes; 5 Grandsons; 6 Wild pansy; 7 Heroine; 8 Daniel Radcliffe; 9 Robinson Crusoe; 10 Inter Milan.
- Niner: UNLOCATED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

578 gives a nocturnal mammal,
98678 gives a kind of weasel,
31249 gives insects.



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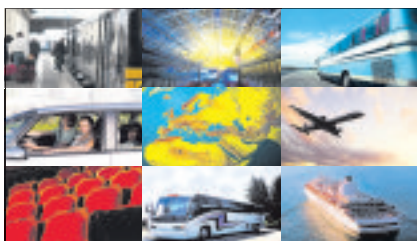
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For further information, or to arrange a viewing, contact Rodens on 01902 881188 or visit the company's website at www.rodensates.com



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- Semi detached
- Immaculate
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- Fitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom • Parking
- Gas C/H/G D/Glazed
- Landscaped gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £144,950

GORNAL

GARDEN WALK

- Semi detached
- 8 Years Old
- Three storey design
- Hall • Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Parking • Gardens
- Gas C/H/G D/Glazed

OFFERS BASED ON: £149,950

GORNAL

GROSVENOR ROAD

- Dormer bungalow
- Detached
- Need of modernisation
- Hall • Lounge • Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas C/H/G
- Landscaped gardens
- Parking

OFFERS BASED ON: £135,000

GORNAL

SAINT CHADS CLOSE

- Bungalow
- Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Double glazed
- Parking • Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £139,950

RUSSELLS HALL

HAWKSLEY ROAD

- Semi Detached
- Hall • Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas C/H/G
- Double Glazed
- Parking • Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £109,950

GORNAL

THE ALLEY

- Semi detached
- Cul-de-sac position
- Adjacent Cotwall End Valley
- Hall • Lounge
- Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom • Gas C/Htg
- Double Glazed

OFFERS BASED ON: £149,950

GORNAL

NEW STREET

- Mid Terrace
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory • Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom • Gas C/Htg
- Double Glazed
- Private Landscaped Gardens
- Immaculate Thru-out
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TIPTON, Woodcroft Avenue
REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! A magnificent detached family residence in favoured district. With entrance vestibule, 22ft traditional reception hall, sitting room with bay, family with bay, cloak/shower/wet room, extended 26ft living/dining room, extended and refitted 23ft5" breakfast kitchen, laundry, pantry. FOUR BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom. 'In and Out' drive, extensive parking/driveway to side and large secluded garden. EPC Rating TBC SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent
Extremely well presented, spacious, detached property situated in popular neighbourhood of Lower Gornal benefitting from double glazing, gas central heating and comprises; hall, good sized living room, guest, w.c., breakfast kitchen, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS with en suite to master bedroom, family bathroom. Garage, driveway, and private rear garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



TIPTON (close to Foxyards), Oxford Way
An appreciably SPACIOUS freehold gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached in favoured 'Fox Hollow' cul de sac development. Enhanced accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall, two stores, dining room with bay, lounge with bay and access to play/family room beyond (former garage), breakfast kitchen, utility section. Principle bedroom with many fitted wardrobes and a shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom. Sheltered landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £279,950

Offers in the region of £217,500

Offers in the Region of £214,950



KINGSWINFORD, Granville Drive
THIS EXTENDED, SPACIOUS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE enjoys OPEN GARDEN VIEWS includes a CONSERVATORY and offers a WELL PRESENTED layout with THREE BEDROOMS. Block paved Forecourt/Parking, GARAGE and GARDEN with views over school fields. EPC D



SEDGLEY, Brownswall Estate, Brownswall Road
Attractive gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached in highly favoured district convenient. Superb accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, transverse upgraded and enlarged 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with updated units and various appliances. Three generous bedrooms, upgraded bathroom. Lengthy 22'5" garage, secluded level rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, The Priory
gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed family home within level walking distance of Bullring. Accommodation: entrance vestibule, reception hall, cloak, sitting room, inner hallway/off store, upgraded utility room, first floor landing with balcony off kitchen, 'L' shape living/dining room. Second floor landing with three bedrooms and bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Robert Street
OUTSTANDING, significantly EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed THREE/FOUR BEDROOM semi detached offering rare opportunity of GRANNY SUITE facility (double ground floor fourth bedroom with shower room en-suite) comprising: porch, lounge, hallway, granny/teenager suite with shower room, dining room, pantry, breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Parking, garden, DISTANT VIEWS. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Vicarage Road West
uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, double fronted detached bungalow occupying an impressive plot set in established/convenient neighbourhood. Consistently maintained but would benefit from some sympathetic updating the accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, cloak, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility room and an exceptionally large garage, gardens. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

No upward chain £169,950

Offers in the Region of £167,500

Offers in the Region of £169,950

Offers in the region of £165,950

Offers in the Region of £160,000



Woodsetton, Claycroft Terrace
ENLARGED conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district requiring some updating comprising: porch, hall, lounge, pantry, sitting room and 'conservatory' beyond 3 bedrooms, bathroom, lobby with 2 stores separate WC, garage, garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY 01902 880888



QUARRY BANK, Stockwell Avenue
Benefiting from a FANTASTIC KITCHEN and LOVELY BATHROOM, this THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make the PERFECT HOME. With UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and briefly comprising: Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Rear Garden. EPC: D



KINGSWINFORD, Moss Grove
A VERY 'DECEPTIVE' PERIOD 'SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE conveniently located and offering an impressively spacious TWO BEDROOM layout which, although requiring cosmetic updating, provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL, plus a DRIVEWAY and good sized rear garden. EPC D



PENSNETT, High Street
THIS SEMI DETACHED HOME has been the subject of successful refurbishment and with thoughtful improvement now encompasses a MODERN KITCHEN and LOVELY BATHROOM. Also Comprising: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, THREE BEDROOMS, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden. EPC:



KINGSWINFORD, Sandhurst Road
Pleasantly located upon the fringe of 'High Acres', this TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW requires updating, yet offers a spacious layout with FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR MODERNISATION, plus DRIVEWAY, CARPORT and a tiered garden. EPC D

Offers in the Region of £144,950

£139,950

No upward chain £139,950

£137,950

No upward chain £134,950



DUDLEY, Denbigh Close
Beautifully presented, Freehold, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom mid townhouse that will particularly appeal to first time buyers comprising: hall, lounge with attractive fireplace with marble effect inset & hearths and 'living flame' gas fire, Kitchen diner, Two bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Garden, parking space. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Tipton Road
NO UPWARD CHAIN. Deceptively spacious two bedroom end of terrace benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating comprising: entrance hall, living room, kitchen/diner, Two double bedrooms, family shower room, garden, off road parking to front. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Bell Street
THIS THREE BEDROOM HOME is 'for sale' with NO UPWARD CHAIN and must be VIEWED EARLY! FEATURING A STUNNING, WELL FITTED KITCHEN and also comprising: Reception Hall, Attractive Lounge, Dining Room, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom and Pretty Rear Garden. EPC E



DUDLEY, Bramble Green
A conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and double glazed semi detached in popular/convenient district. The accommodation includes; reception hall, through living/dining room, breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of appliances, through lobby. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garden, off road parking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Tenacre Lane
An outstanding tremendously upgraded freehold gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been transformed by present vendor in recent years. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen with first class range of units, dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, potential off road parking low maintenance garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950

Offers in the region of £117,995

New price £117,500

Offers in the Region of £116,950

Offers in the Region of £115,950



KINGSWINFORD, Surrey Drive

AN IMPRESSIVE LINK DETACHED 3 BEDROOM HOUSE enjoying a LARGE CORNER plot with POTENTIAL for EXTENSION (subject to consent), plus a sought after location and offering GENEROUS accommodation. DRIVEWAY, GARAGE & LARGE REAR/ SIDE GARDEN. EPC D



SEDGLEY, Northway, Longmeadow Drive

ENVIABLE LOCATION! Backing on to open fields, and with PANORAMIC VIEWS, a conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), uPVC double glazed detached with further potential offering a rare opportunity. Accommodation provides; reception hall, lounge, dining room, "garden room", kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Large garage with w.c. Delightful expertly tended gardens abutting on to fields. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



WALL HEATH, Victoria Street

AN IMMACULATE, ENLARGED, MODERN LINK-DETACHED BUNGALOW within this delightful cul de sac setting, offering a luxury appointed layout including a CONSERVATORY, plus TARMAC DRIVEWAY and a pleasant low maintenance rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£199,950

Offers in the Region of £199,950

No upward chain

£194,950



DUDLEY, New Bungalow, Mulberry Green

A distinctive, 2 (potentially 3) NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed dormer style detached (with finishing details to purchasers requirements). The bungalow briefly comprises; reception hall, lounge (with bay & double French doors), dining room (potential third bedroom), well equipped kitchen with a range of 'Old English Cream' units, store, bathroom. To the first floor are; two bedrooms (one with en suite). Garage, gardens. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £164,950, NOW £159,950



DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

Significantly enhanced, stylish, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached upon favoured development. Accommodation provides hall, lounge, transverse dining kitchen with upgraded range of units and patio doors out to garden, store. THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed/re-tiled bathrooms, lengthy drive, rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £151,950



QUARRY BANK, Park Walk

ENJOYING views of STEVENS PARK, This WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY occupies a CORNER PLOT and has also been THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED. Briefly Comprising; Hall, THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, Fantastic Well Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Rear Garden. EPC:

£149,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, intermediate "family home" within walking distance of village briefly comprising; hallway, living/dining room, rear hallway, store, upgraded kitchen, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reappointed bathroom. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woods. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



TIPTON, Foxyards, Henlow Close

COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED! A gas centrally heated (combi), uPVC double glazed and well insulated freehold semi detached bungalow presented almost 'as new' in cul de sac. Recently redecorated accommodation provides entrance hallway, re equipped kitchen, L shape living/dining room, inner hallway, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), reappointed bathroom with white suite, carport, garage, neat garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £147,500



COSELEY, Causeway Road

A conscientiously maintained COMPETATIVELY PRICED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed DETACHED in exceptionally convenient district. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, kitchen, L shape living/dining room, store, brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY; bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the Region of £ 134,950



SEDGLEY, Bath Street

Immaculately presented, conscientiously maintained, uPVC double glazed semi detached which is well worthy of an internal inspection and briefly comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, dining kitchen with a fine range of units & integrated appliances CONSERVATORY, two bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, block paved driveway & garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950



WOODSETTON, Roper Way

A much improved and beautifully presented, EXTENDED, uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated modern starter home benefitting from THREE BEDROOMS, living room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and parking for multiple vehicles to the front. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the Region of £134,950



DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated (not tested) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential conveniently situated in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, extended 19'4" second reception room, extended/upgraded 23ft2" breakfast kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, three bedrooms, possible garage space, garden. No upward chain. EPC Rating D

PRICE: £125,000



COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Outstanding, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed end "starter home" with panoramic distant views briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of beech effect units, sitting room/snug, two bedrooms, bathroom.. Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



COSELEY, Cherrywood Close

Most conveniently situated (within reasonable distance of bus/ rail transport routes) a gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate 'starter home' comprising entrance hallway, fitted cloak room, lounge, upgrade breakfast kitchen, 2 bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite and chrome fittings, parking to front and a 'low maintenance' slab/gravel rear garden. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £115,750



Dudley, Dudley Wood Road

Having a FANTASTIC REAR GARDEN and TWO CHARMING RECEPTION ROOMS, this lovely TWO/THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME would MAKE FANTASTIC FIRST PROPERTY and comprises; Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two/ Three Bedrooms, Driveway, Rear Garden. EPC:

£115,000



LANESFIELD, Gordon Avenue

Significantly modernised, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, tremendous "hub of the house" dining kitchen with an extensive range of units/appliances and incorporating an "island section, pantry. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950



COSELEY, Rounds Hill Road

A modernised and conscientiously maintained freehold gas centrally heated and mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities, bus/rail routes etc and providing reception hall, pantry, 25ft through living/dining room (formally two separate rooms) upgraded kitchen with various integrated appliances, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, delightful well tended rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the Region of £110,000



NETHERTON, Knowle Hill Road

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£109,950



COSELEY, Hurst Hill, Clifton Street

A delightful, tremendously enhanced and meticulously maintained gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district with tremendous views to rear. Accommodation provides entrance vestibule, lounge, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units and various integrated appliance. Two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom, parking to front, neat landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £108,500



PENSNETT, Derwent Close

THIS SEMI-DETACHED HOME is pleasantly situated and although now requires some cosmetic updating, provides excellent potential. Comprising: Hall, Kitchen, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate WC, Driveway, Garage & Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC: E

£106,500



PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

THIS THREE BEDROOM HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and ENCOMPASSES A LARGE REAR GARDEN and GAS CENTRAL HEATING. To comprise: Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Generous Bedrooms, Tarmac Frontage (No Dropped Kerb), Large Rear Garden. EPC E

£99,950



DUDLEY, Myrtle Road

SUBSTANTIAL GARAGE TO REAR! With no upward chain a significantly improved freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed end 'starter home'. Accommodation provides reception hall, shower/wet room, lounge, transverse dining kitchen, uPVC part double glazed conservatory, 3 bedrooms, separate toilet, gated driveway to the garage, gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

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LOWER GORNAL, Barr Street

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HOLLY HALL, Hallchurch Road

THIS MODERN, WELL PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM, END TOWNHOUSE may appeal to first time buyers AND buy-to-let investors and comprises: hall, lounge, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC D

£89,950



UPPER GORNAL, Hillary Crest

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Offers in the Region of £87,500



Brierley Hill, North Street

THIS BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED AND DELIGHTFULLY DECORATED, FIRST FLOOR FLAT would make the ideal FIRST TIME BUY or BUY TO LET INVESTMENT and comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, Lovely Modern Bathroom, Off Road Parking. EPC: D

£84,950



LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove

A well presented FIRST FLOOR part PVC double glazed, most conveniently situated within walking distance of the village and many other amenities. Accommodation provides reception hall (with extensive storage), lounge, kitchen, store, two double bedrooms, bathroom, allocated garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

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EPC D



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EPC D



NEW

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EPC D



NEW PRICE

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- Downstairs Bathroom
- First Floor Bathroom
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EPC E



NEW

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EPC E



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EPC TBC



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- No Upward Chain



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EPC D



NEW

WOODSETTON ROPER WAY

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- Stylish Bathroom
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
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- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Interior Viewing HIGHLY Recommended



£128,500

EPC TBC



NEW

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EPC D



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- First Floor Modern Bathroom

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EPC D



NEW PRICE

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- Allocated Parking for 2 Vehicles

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EPC D



NEW PRICE

THE STRAITS KINGSLEY GROVE

- Substantial Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms • Spacious Accommodation
- Living Room with Door to Rear Garden
- Dining Kitchen • Bathroom

£229,950

Specialist tuition at circuit

By James Parker

Get Going Live!, the test-driving event for young and novice drivers with disabilities, is back for 2015 and now incorporated into the well-known Mobility Roadshow at Donington Park, Derbyshire, June 25-27.

Get Going Live! is a free event focused on the needs of people age 15 and over that are keen to discover how to get behind the wheel of an accessible or adapted car.

All young visitors are welcome to attend the show with their families to discover the latest advice, specialist driving tuition and vehicles available for individuals with a variety of conditions.

Whether drivers use wheelchairs or not, attending Get Going Live! offers the unique opportunity to test drive vehicles around the historic and exciting Donington Park motorsport circuit for free.

This track is the location for the British Motorcycle Grand Prix and British Touring Car Championship and so promises an amazing experience.

Specialist professionals in dual-control vehicles will accompany every young driver, so they remain safe during test drives.

Leading motor manufacturers such as Ford, Vauxhall and Hyundai will have a range of specialist vehicles on display, both in the exhibition hall and on the test track.

Did you know if you have a disability, you can gain a driving licence a year earlier at the age of 16?

Visiting Get Going Live! will provide all the information required to achieve driving independence and visitors will even be able to try out the theory test.

This year Aaron Morgan, the only disabled racing driver to compete in the Production BMW Championships, will be at Get Going Live! as a show ambassador.

Amazing

Aaron said: "Get Going Live! promises to deliver an amazing and unique day out for all young visitors and their families."

"As I race at Donington Park, being able to test drive accessible cars around the motorsport circuit for free is an amazing experience not to be missed."

"Get Going Live! is a 'must attend' opportunity for young people who are looking for their first adapted car. I can highly recommend it as you can talk to experts and find out from other people about how they learnt to drive."

"I will be at the show and really look forward to helping other young people with disabilities get in the driving seat."

Show ambassador Callum Hodgson will also be available to answer questions about driving with a disability as he first discovered adapted hand controls at a previous show.

Also, as Get Going Live! is part of this year's Mobility Roadshow, visitors will be able to see the many independent living



'An amazing experience not to be missed'

products and services from other exhibitors in the Donington Exhibition Hall.

There will be a vast range of products on display including wheelchairs, car boot hoists, ramps and in-vehicle safety systems.

Get Going Live! is co-hosted by the charities Mobility Choice and DMUK, supported by NFE group. To pre-register for a test drive or for further information on Get Going Live!, visit: www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk



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Finance example: Nissan Micra 1.2 16v (79bhp) Acenta+ 3dr, Cash Price £3995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £80.83 (£18.66 per week) Total amount payable £5149.80 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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12 Zafira 1.6 Design Red 20k	£8,995

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08 VW Polo 1.2 Match Silver 42k	£4,995

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Golden trip celebrates 50 years of iconic Ford

By James Parker

Ford's golden convoy of Transits celebrating 50 years of the van icon has started a tour around dealerships, events and other shows until the commercial vehicle leader's actual anniversary on the weekend of Aug 8/9.

The tour by gold-coloured Transit Courier, Connect, Custom and two-tonne Transit models marks five decades of loyal service to businesses in UK and around the world.

Since the first vehicle left the production line in Langley, England, on August 9, 1965, almost eight million Transit and Transit Custom models have been built, and the Transit has grown from a single model to an entire family of Transit vans.

Lined up end-to-end, 50 years of Transits would circle the globe, and on average a new Transit has been bought every 180 seconds during its lifetime.

The latest expanded Transit line-up features four all-new models – Transit, Transit Custom, Transit Connect and Transit Courier – which are boosting demand for Ford commercial vehicles, with sales at an all-time high in March up 43 per cent at 16,497, compared with March 2014.

Essential

"The Ford Transit has touched the lives of most of us," said Mark Ovenden, chairman and managing director, Ford of Britain.

"From house moves to moving people, the Ford Transit is an essential tool to get the job done.

"It has become a mobile office or workshop for some – and loved by us all."

Launched in the same year that the first person walked in space, the Transit made an immediate impact, providing practical support to the booming economy. The Transit evolved with a vast range of bodystyles and variants: from the parcel van, through tipper trucks and campers, to outrageous one-offs, including the Cosworth V8-powered Supervans.

Growing popularity saw production of the Transit accelerate, and after passing the first million milestone in 1976, it rapidly passed the next ones in 1985, 1994, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2013.

Add demand for the smaller Transit Connect – with more than one million sold – and the compact all-new Transit Courier, and total Transit production is scheduled to top nine million during 2015.

Improve

Transit has also introduced a list of technology innovations to help improve performance, comfort and safety; from features like side-loading doors, radial ply tyres and halogen headlights, to direct injection diesel engines, high security locks and standard anti-lock brakes.

The latest Transit models have added state-of-the-art technologies like Adaptive Cruise Control and Lane Keeping Aid.

The success of the Transit has seen production expand beyond Europe, including facilities in Nanchang, China and in 2014 the Transit entered North America for the first time, with the all-new two-tonne Transit being built in Kansas City, Mo.

This has helped extend the all-new Transit to 118 markets across six continents.

"Ford's Transit family continues to lead the way in innovation," Ovenden said.

"With 50 years of van sales leadership in the UK under its belt, the new four-van Transit range is looking forward to its next half century."



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- Any condition
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01384 226086

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Call the HOUSE DOCTOR Now for the best price

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It's a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from FIRST GENERAL HOMES

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One phone call solves all your problems sell your house now

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Sell your house We are just a phone call away

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- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

0800 066 5558

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call us 0800 085 2455 0121 308 7786 24/7

Aston Wood Properties

the name you can trust

Harrison Fowler

Any property, any condition FREE valuation FREE solicitors No obligation No fees Fast completion

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STOP! problem property?

Structural problems, mine shafts, non standard construction, concrete properties, steel properties, rising ground rent, rising lease costs, Japanese Knotweed, subsidence, nothing worries us... we will buy your house whatever the problem

no problem

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call Alex 0800 111 441 01543 499 032 Anytime

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01902 628060

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THE BEST OFFER ON YOUR HOUSE

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DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY

for a fast cash offer

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NO STRINGS

Local Investor pays you more

Call any time

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PICK UP the phone CALL NOW Best Price

Sam

01543 499032

0800 500 3109

I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE

Call today for a best price

0800 731 1160

0121 274 0398

6

Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A THREE BED Semi, ORP CH DG, Wolverhampton 1 Bed Flat Willenhall, 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

HIGH Quality One Bed and Studio Flats Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 / 01902 700028

PERTON: MODERN ONE Bed Ground Floor Flat, with parking, No DSS. £85pwk. 07947 628039.

RECENTLY REFURBISHED 1 and 2 bed flats, Netherton, close to Merry Hill, DSS welcome. Call 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

ROOMS TO LET, Bills Included in Bilston, Tipton and Wolverhampton areas. Call 07773 594640


SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07940 116130

TWO BED flat above shop, Gornal, near Sedgley, CH, DG, £475pcm. 07852 225616.

flats for sale

TWO BEDROOM MAISONETTE for sale, Kidderminster. £72,000 ono Call 07730 477985 for details.

coast & country



THREE BED HOLIDAY LODGE

Near Welshpool, refurbished, site fees paid till 2016, prime position on lake, own fishing peg, swimming pool, tennis court, club house.

£57,000 ono,

For further details call 07727 408770 / 01568 612391.

mobile homes

HOLIDAY HOME, 2 bedroom, lovely site near Ludlow, clubhouse, gym, golf course, £25,000 ono, Telephone 07743 147270.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

HOME CASH BUYER WILL PAY 15K MORE Complete within 7 days

Ring Paul, 07870 341089

SELL YOUR HOUSE... GUARANTEED

CASH IN 7 DAYS

or 100% MARKET VALUE IN 28 DAYS!

T: 0800 612 3698

or 01384 465563

www.national-residential.co.uk

I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE

*ANY AREA *ANY PRICE *ANY CONDITION*

CALL PAULA ON 01384 467643

INDEPENDENT * LOCAL * CONFIDENTIAL *

A A PROPERTIES PAY A better cash price. Call Richard 07556 022973.

A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

A BEST CASH DEAL PAID for your property every time 01902 628047

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

ALWAYS CALL US FIRST for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

WE ALWAYS PAY MORE for the best price now. Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878

Classified Ads

7

Jobs

cleaners

CLEANERS REQUIRED in Dudley and Bridgnorth area. Morning and evening vacancies. 01902 895533.

courses

BILLY THOMAS

DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS

HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID) 7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY CAR & TRAILER (B+E) MINIBUS (D1)

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full time - general

ASHLEY MANOR

A leading Manufacturer of quality upholstery require the following:-

SALES ORDER PROCESSOR

To work with our existing team of order processors, the successful applicant will have previous experience in order processing, preferably within the upholstery industry.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

Working with our Customer Service Team, you will have some customer service experience, preferably within the upholstery industry and be responsible for the daily processing of debits from our multiple customer base.

Both successful applicants must be able to work on their own initiative and to stringent deadlines whilst maintaining a high level of speed and accuracy

Applications in writing with full CV to Miss Clair Smith, Sales Office Supervisor, Ashley Manor Upholstery Limited, Unit 1 Woodside Industrial Estate, Pedmore Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 0RL or via email to: clairsmith@ashleymanor.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 1st May 2015

EXPERIENCED PRESS BRAKE OPERATORS required. FLT licence advantageous. 39hrs + overtime. Telephone 01384 263691.

EXPERIENCED WINDOW FITTER required permanent full time position. Must hold clean driving Licence. Apply to DW Windows Ltd 01902 865211 email info@dwwindows.co.uk

Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!

- ✓ Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- ✓ Get up to 100% of the market value
- ✓ Free valuation. Free consultation
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Fast Sale Maximum Value

The Property Ombudsman

Yellow Springbok

NO OBLIGATION FREE CONSULTATION

24/7 Helpline

0800 092 5743

01902 489 500

YellowSpringbok.co.uk

Classified Ads

Due to a large increase in their order book my client is looking to take on a number of additional staff at their Dudley manufacturing facility

SHEET METAL FABRICATOR

to work day shift must be able to fabricate from pre punched and folded components, including welding, grinding and finishing prior to powder coating. My client may consider a trainee fabricator who has welding/grinding experience

Rate of pay is dependant upon experience and ability.

PRESS BRAKE SETTER

With at least 2 years experience of setting and operating an Amada press. You must be used to running small batches and one offs. This role is to work on a permanent late shift from 14.00- 22.30. Rate of pay is dependant upon experience and ability

BUSBAR FITTER

required to assemble electrical control panels making all required electrical contacts. The hours of work are double day shift ie 06.00 - 14.30 and 09.30 - 18.00 Rate of pay is dependant upon experience and ability

if you have the required skills please contact Simon at Masstemps on 01384 236000 or email your cv to simon@masstemps.co.uk

SALES ADVISOR / TECHNICAL ENGINEER

Wolverhampton centre

Flue Direct Ltd has been established for over 10 years and has a successful online business as well as a Trade Counter. The role will involve advising customers on their requirements face to face and over the phone, providing technical advice and assisting them in their purchase. Self generated sales and new business will also be a key part of the role. Full training will be given. Candidates with a HETAS qualification, knowledge of chimneys, or previous experience within the heating, building, DIY or merchant supplies trade would be an advantage. Salary plus bonus dependent on experience.

Please forward CV, covering letter and current salary details to: victoria@fluedirect.co.uk www.fluedirect.co.uk

BSG

BSG based in Cradley Heath are looking for the following staff to join their team

EXPERIENCED FABRICATOR / WELDER (MIG)

Fabricating open steel flooring / handrail standards

EXPERIENCED HANDRAIL TUBE BENDER

Manual tube bender

Experience of working from engineered drawings and to critical dimensions essential. Must be self-motivated and able to work on your own initiative. Producing quality products and delivering high customer service levels

Good rates of pay / Holidays / Pension

Please contact: Steve Critchley Tel: 01384 563434 Email: scritchley@keesafety.com

Registered Office: Unit A2, Cradley Business Park Overend Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 7DW

manufacturing

PLATER (Fabricator) / WELDERS

required to join family owned structural steelwork company. Experience in structural steelwork an advantage. Permanent position. Full time. Contact Andy on 07872 836 004

STEEL FABRICATORS required to join family owned structural steelwork company. Experience with experience working from drawings and able to manufacture all types of steel members. Good rates of pay. Contact Gary on 07872 836 004

nursing & carers

CARE WORKERS - Tipton Home-care Ltd are seeking Carers for Halesowen & Dudley areas. Must be reliable, honest & trustworthy. Full time/ part time positions available (must be available to work weekends). £7.20 p.h. + 10p a mile fuel allowance. Drivers preferred but not essential. A CRB will be required. Tel: Donna 01902 317878 Email: Donna.doughty@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

retail

BUTCHER required for high class butchers. Apply to Scriven Foods Ltd on 01384 569460.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as

£19.50 for 6 nights Plus

6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

IMMACULATE

PEUGEOT 1007 SPORT

Little use, garaged. July 2006. Semi auto. Red metallic. Only done 2,397 miles from new.

Alloys, alarm, CD player, etc. Real bargain at £2,900 o.n.o. 01902 608073.

IMMACULATE

PEUGEOT 206 Metallic Blue. 1.4 diesel. 4 door. 56 plate. 64k, new cam belt and tyres. MoT. £2,200 o.n.o. 01384 864058.

FORD FIESTA Style 57 plate, 27,000 miles, excellent condition. £3,800. 01902 444339.

motorbikes

HONDA DAX C90

MONKEYBIKE REPLICA

Condition mint, in red, 12 months MoT, 1,130 miles from new, 0.4, 150mpg, perfect for commuting or back of motorhome. £500. No offers. 01384 634083/07796 071219

KAWASAKI 1995 ZXR6R Exceptional, clean, low miles, example will come with new moths, £1,895. 01902 330328.

ROYAL ENFIELD 350 Bullet, 07 reg, black, mint condition, 2000 miles, £1500. 01384 830877.

SCOOTERS & MOTOR CYCLES

Brand new from £995 LEXMOTO main dealers. 01902 280225 www.motorsmart-midlands.com

WE BUY ALL BIKES immaculate, as new, barn or garaged, non runners. Cash on collection. Call Peter at All Bikes, 01902 312939.

YAMAHA YZF R1 1000, 21,000 miles, 51 reg, 12 months MoT, blue, run and rides mint, £2,000. 07789 541492.

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years

A WIDE RANGE OF CARS UNDER £1,000

Open every day, Full MoT's

01902 490555

Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisers must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD MONDEO 2 litre diesel, 55 reg, Drives perfect, £725. 07885 772238.

JAGUAR S TYPE, SE auto, silver, X edition, excellent condition, 19,000 miles, MoT, 12k, 200hp, interior, sat nav, multi CD player, extras, £1,150 ono. 07411 958454.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4 (05), silver, 5dr, long MoT, 90,000 miles, A/C, PAS, CD player, £1,250 will accept offers 07971 381000.

PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Turbo Diesel Sport, 2004, 5 door, black, 100,000 miles, MoT, excellent condition. £995. 07851 213316.

PEUGEOT 306 ESTATE, 1999, silver, 1.9 Diesel, 65,000 miles, MoT Oct 2015, £950 ono. 01384 256413.

RENAULT CLIO 03, 1.5DCI, 60mpg, silver, 2-dr, £30 tax, tidy inside/out, alloys, stereo, MoT, 12k, £1200. Wombourne 07713 840661.

RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS 2007, 66k miles, silver, good condition. 1999, 5dr, 1.9 Diesel, 65,000 miles, MoT, 12k, 200hp, interior, sat nav, multi CD player, extras, £1,150 ono. 07411 958454.

RENAULT MEGANE, 2005, 68,000 miles, silver, 1.9 Diesel, 65,000 miles, MoT, 12k, 200hp, interior, sat nav, multi CD player, extras, £1,150 ono. 07411 958454.

ROVER 75 Diesel, automatic, 2002, full MoT, silver, low mileage, very good condition, first to see will buy, £1,050 ono. 07714 992907.

SAAB 9000CD Griffin 3.0 V6, good condition. MoT Feb 16, all electric, £600 ono. 07547 265879 or 01902 307750.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6, 53, runs but engine fault, many new parts, £425 o.n.o. For details 07738 388049.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 5dr, hatch, black, 03 Reg, petrol, 90k, fish, MoT, CD radio, very good condition. £995. 01384 351704.

VW GOLF convertible, silver, AC, EW, alloys, used daily. MoT July, £475 ono. 07801 541760.

VW POLO, 03, silver, 3 door, 80k, MoT, full service history, CD player. Great condition, cheap to run, £1,375 ono. 07535 074158.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars and vans. Call 07585 664389.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED

Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any condition. Any age. Call Market Drayton. 01630 652993.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT 07 reg, noise from engine, on, sorn, sold as seen, offers over £600. 07976 979095.

driving tuition

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £15 an hour there after. Call now 07956 051263.

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime

For Example:

Citroen C1, C2, C3

Hyundai 110

Toyota Yaris

Clios & Micras

Ring for quotes on others!

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgaskets, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES/ROOF BARS cheap-est in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tettenhall Rd, WV6 0LE

9 Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

public & legal notices

Staffordshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994

DUDLEY – KINGSWINFOR 10K ROAD RACE

MILE FLAT, GREENSFORGE, WORLDS END ROAD, CHESTER ROAD, MILL LANE, GREAT CHECKHILL ROAD, GREENSFORGE LANE (GREENSFORGE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Staffordshire County Council made an Order on the 28 April 2015 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along the following lengths of roads:

Mile Flat, Greensforge, Worlds End Road, Chester Road, Mill Lane, Great Checkhill Road and Greensforge Lane

unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the event; or being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

The restrictions are necessary to support the police operation in maintaining the safety of all road users along the route of the 'Flat Mile' event including competitors and team support. The restrictions will be in place from approximately 18:45 until the end of the race which is anticipated to be 21:00.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Hinksford Lane, High Street, The Holloway, Chaspeol Road, Camp Hill Road, Highgate Common, Morfe Lane, Morfe Hall Lane, Blundies Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A458 Cote Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A449 Kidderminster Road, A449 Prestwood Road, A449 Wolverhampton Road and A449 Kidderminster Road.

Additional advance signage for HGVs will be placed in advance of the diversion route.

The Order will not, at any time, prevent access of pedestrians to premises situated on or adjacent to any road to which the order relates, or to any premises only accessible to pedestrians from such a road.

The Order will come into operation on the 06 May 2015 and will remain in force until the Dudley – Kingswinfor 10K Road Race is completed.

The event is being held by Dudley Kingswinfor Running Club, Heathbrook, Swindon Road, Wall Heath, Kingswinfor, West Midlands, DY6 0AW.

A Map showing all of the roads involved may be inspected during normal working hours at the office of the Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Place, Highways, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP and can be viewed at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders

John Tradewell, Director of Law and Democracy

1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP

Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000

Date: 30 April 2015

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

THE SECRETARY OF STATE hereby gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (West Midlands) (No. 20) Order 2015" authorising the stopping up of a length of Mill Street at Halesowen, in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley. This is to enable development as permitted by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council under reference P12/418.

COPIES OF THE ORDER MAY BE OBTAINED, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dfi.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/WM/S247/1008) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Planning Services, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley DY1 1HL.

ANY PERSON aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 30 April 2015 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

Dave Candlish, Department for Transport

9 Personal

GENUINE 58 YEAR OLD MALE

From Wolves, slim, non smoker, own house and car, looking for younger female for friendship, maybe more.

Box Number P19787

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTENTION LADIES 40-55.

Please don't pass this advert by, read it and see I'm a genuine guy.

51, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.

Box Number P19791

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GOOD LOOKING MALE 54

Slim to medium build. Loyal, caring and romantic. Own house and car. Enjoys weekends away and holidays abroad.

W.L.T.M attractive, slim female, similar age for long term relationship.

Photo please, returned.

Box Number P19796

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

MALE, 52

SLIM, 5FT 10INS

Black hair, brown eyes and tanned, Asian/English. Loving, kind, caring, sincere, easy going, romantic, sensitive, spiritual, friendly.

Own business.

Looking for a female soulmate to share my life with. Age unimportant. Single Moms welcome.

Box Number P19795

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE GENT, 56

wishes to meet lady, similar age, for fun, friendship, may be LTR.

Box Number C19793

Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publisher of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BRIERLEY HILL BULLETS

Charter Standard Club

Requires players for **UNDER 7's, 8's, 9's and 10's** for next season.

Also if you are looking to manage a team please contact us.

Tony on 07977 308183 or Keith on 07896 666589.

ADVERTISEMENTS

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ("the Company") and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.

2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.

3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legible, honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following: - All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertisement as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.

All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.

The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.

4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial material or illustrations or any other material or not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.

5. **Liability** The Company's liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type and that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked in advance, the advertiser's liability in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to re-publish or make a refund or adjustment arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.

6. **Box numbers** The Company accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars or communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.

7. **Inspection** The Company shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.

8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damages arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.

9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines: -

Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday.

Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication.

Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication.

To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.

10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.

All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £200 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.

Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.

Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any other payment or credit facility in relation to the account.

12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.

13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

Local Specialists

Accountancy

Tax Returns CIS and Accountancy

- Preparation of CIS
- Tax Returns
- Accounts
- VAT returns and all other accounting services

Small and medium size limited companies

Professional and friendly service at low prices
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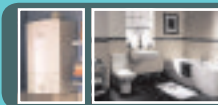


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DK's Foster is first back for club in marathon

IT was a big weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as many headed to the capital for the London Marathon.

The blue hoops joined close to 38,000 runners from international class athletes to those just happy to finish on Blackheath Common before making their long and winding way towards a finish on The Mall.

First back for the hoops was Ben Foster in a new personal best of 2.34.09 in 395th place. Kevin Duckworth finished in 2.52.14 to claim 35th in his age group. James Wright bagged a PB in 2.57.29 and Mark Judge claimed a Good For Age qualifying time in 3.14.52.

Helen Tromans finished in a new PB of 3.16.11 finishing 35th in her age group and in the process setting a club record for the fastest female member over the distance. Lorna Hulme went off fast but struggled in the later stages but still claimed a respectable 3.25.11. Andy Litchfield PB'd in 3.34.17. Dave Hickman ran 3.49.28, Marie Latreche clocked 3.52.13, Carol Fisher finished in 3.55.41. Lee Avery 4.35.30, Natalie Litchfield 4.52.40, Debbie Richards 4.54.24 and Alison and Keith Whitehouse finished together in 5.58.58.

In Stratford upon Avon a couple of hoops completed the Shakespeare Marathon. Helen Hickman finishing in 4.08.13 in 338th place and Phil Sayers ran 4.28.01 to claim 442nd. Over the half distance John Sixsmith clocked 1.44.13 finishing in 338th position. And John Andrews finished in 51st place in 22.22 in the Ford-houses 5k.

Heathens are all ready to defend title

CRADLEY HEATHENS will begin their defence of the National League Cup next month after agreeing dates with Stoke Potters.

Will Pottinger's side – the holders – will go to Loomer Road, which was the Heathens' adopted home in 1996, on Saturday May 16 for the first leg of the quarter-final tie.

And the return date has been agreed for Wednesday May 27 at Perry Barr.

The Cradley versus Birmingham National League derby encounter, which is expected to be one of the meetings of the season, has now been put back to Wednesday, June 24, to make way.

Cradley chief Nigel Pearson said: "Our thanks to Stoke and Birmingham for working with us on this and it's nice to be able to agree fixtures so quickly and efficiently."

Snooker 'is s-cued' towards men

WOMEN are not given the same opportunities in snooker as men, and that needs to change according to 10-time world champion Reanne Evans.

The 29-year-old from Dudley revealed that despite her decade as the leading name in the woman's game, she has lost money on her career.

She said: "I think there are different mindsets that don't help ladies. But from the start we haven't been given the same opportunities. We just need backing, to get more involved.

"Every day you battle the boys club.

"Whoever you talk to, it's the men's tour, not the main tour. You just have to want to push through.

"I think we need a lot more sponsorship and big-

ger tournaments. I was ladies' champion for 10 years and I'm out of pocket, and I don't think that would be the case in other sports."

She lost the world champion title for the first time since 2005 when she was beaten in the semi-finals by eventual winner Ng On Yee.

On Yee had travelled from Hong Kong and won £1,500 for being crowned champion.

The new world champion said she would like to join the men's game as well, adding: "There's not many ladies players who can play snooker, so I can hope I can play with men to improve my skills. I want to get closer to the men, like Reanne." Evans said the pressure of her match against 1997 world

champion Ken Doherty to qualify for the main draw of the World Championships had thrown her off her game, adding: "I felt a bit flat.

"You get the vibe maybe things are not going quite your way, with all the hype playing Ken in the Worlds, I was on a little downer, but I can't take anything away from her, she played brilliantly."

Evans also announced she had signed up for Q School, the qualifying stages of the World Snooker Tour.

She'll compete against both male and female amateurs from around the world for a two-year tour card, allowing her to play for £8 million.

Wolves must win for play-offs chance

KENNY Jackett believes Wolves would be 'very unlucky' not to make the play-offs now after taking their top-six charge to the final day.

The 1-0 victory at Wigan means Wolves need to beat Millwall at Molineux on Saturday, better Brentford's result at home to Wigan and hope Derby lose at home to Reading to sneak into the play-offs.

No team has needed more than 76 to get into the second tier top six in a 46-game season, meaning if Wolves win they could make history as the highest points total to fail to make the play-offs on 78.

Wolves' tally of 75 points has only been bettered by the last team in the play-off positions five times in the 26 years of the current format.

And Jackett believes they will be unfortunate to miss out now.

"If we win and 78 points doesn't get us into the top six, we'll be very unlucky," said the head coach.

"But we have to make sure we do our job because we have still an opportunity and that has to be our focus in front of our own fans.

"All we can do is look after ourselves and if there's any possibility we have to make sure we're there to take it.

Exciting

"We did our job on Saturday and have to do it again this Saturday.

"It's exciting to still be in it with a good points total but we need to put on another good performance against Millwall."

Derby have won just two in 12 but 19th-placed Reading have gone seven without a victory.

Brentford, whose 2-0 win at the Madejski Stadium ended a five-match wait for three points, have a goal difference of four better than Wolves.

Millwall need to win to have any chance of staying up and Jackett admits it's ironic their last-day opponents are his former club, who he fought so hard for in the Championship.

"I didn't know their situation because I'd been looking at the permutations at the top," he said.

"It's my former club and they'll have everything to play for.

"Rotherham have a game at home to Reading so it will be clear what they need to do."

Driver Sykes is off to a flying start



Rally driver Richard Sykes in the Somerset race. Picture courtesy of Dave Johnson

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes got his BTRDA Mixed Surface Championship campaign off to a flying start when he finished second in class on the Somerset Stages in his Citroën DS3.

The rally started with two runs on the tarmac of the Porlock Hill toll road near Minehead. Sykes and co-driver Emma Morrison were immediately on the pace,

finishing the stages just three seconds behind Callum Black in another DS3.

After the tarmac opening the rally moved onto gravel forest tracks for the remainder of the competition.

Sykes was consistently quick and maintained his second in class position throughout the day. He also finished 18th overall out of 166 starters and third two-wheel

drive car. "It's great to get a good result in the DS3. It's a new car for this season and it has been a massive learning curve trying to get to grips with it," said Sykes. "Porlock was the first time I have driven the car on tarmac so I was delighted with our times there.

"The forest stages went well too, we weren't far behind Callum even though he has a lot more experience of the DS3."

Halesowen looking for bounce back match

HALESOWEN head into this weekend's home game with Penkridge looking to bounce back from a losing start to the season.

The first team face Penkridge at Seth Somers Park on Saturday and will be licking their wounds after the defeat at the hands of Tamworth.

And to complete a miserable weekend for the club, the seconds were also defeated.

Skipper Faisal Shahid said: "There are lessons to be learnt from both these defeats. It was good to welcome the new boys into the team on Saturday but we made some basic errors."

The early season format of 50 over result matches saw Tamworth firsts win the toss at home and elect to bat first.

Lively opening spells from both skipper Faisal Shahid and Eddie Rhodes saw the ball go past the outside edge countless times but with little reward for the bowlers despite keeping the run rate down in the early stages.

It was the change bowlers that took some punishment from the Tamworth batters who went on to amass a big 272-6 from their 50 overs with solid contributions from Flower 80, Burrows 73 and Maddox 52.

Needing to score at 5.5 an over the Halesowen innings got off to a solid, if unspectacular, start with Hassan Qaumi and Faisal Shahid putting on 50 for the opening wicket.

However, the run rate was never challenged and by the time new signings Harry Ellison and Will Barrett got to the crease the asking rate was close to double figures. Halesowen were out for 198.

Glassboys' misery runs right to end

Skelmersdale 2 Stourbridge 1

CHRIS Lait's first half goal was not enough for Stourbridge as their wretched run of form continued to the final day of the season with a 2-1 defeat at Skelmersdale.

Lait struck after only six minutes after a Luke Benbow flick-on put him through on goal.

But Portuguese full-back Valter Fernandes equalised in the first half, and Danny Mitchley gave the home side the advantage in the Evo-Stik Premier clash.

Manager Gary Hackett was forced into a change with Chris Knight unavailable, and Leon Miles stepped in at centre back in an otherwise unchanged line-up from Tuesday's narrow defeat at FC United of Manchester.

The Glassboys finish the season in 16th place.



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Local newspapers and websites offer the most effective combination for driving consumer action. Readers are more than twice as likely to act upon local advertisements than those on TV and social media

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Sport

Wolves' play-offs hopes in balance

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Sykes is off to a flying start

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Yeltz close the season with a draw

Halesowen Town 1 Grantham Town 1
AARON Forde's last-gasp equaliser concluded Halesowen's successful first season in the Northern Premier League and secured 11th place in the final table.

Grantham snatched a ninth minute lead when centre-forward Liam Read held up a long ball for Liam Hurst to stroke home from 15 yards and the Gingerbreads held onto their lead for the majority of a game of few chances on a rock-hard playing surface.

As the Yeltz tried to settle, Kris Green screwed wide before Read lofted the ball onto the top of Halesowen's net. Iyseden Christie flashed a shot wide of Grantham's goal before the interval and a Christie header was cleared off the line at the start of the second half.

Grantham striker Read then threatened on three further occasions as Grantham continued to create the

better chances. Read remained onside to scoop over the bar after 70 minutes and then flicked a Ben Saunders cross just high four minutes later.

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant then did well to claim the ball at Read's feet after 79 minutes.

Halesowen made three late substitutions in an attempt to change their fortunes and Danny Bragoli went close with seven minutes remaining.

The Yeltz finally conjured an equaliser two minutes into added time when an Aaron Griffiths throw-in from the left was headed on by substitute Aaron Lloyd for Forde to steer his shot the ball just inside the post.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull(c), Tilt, Charlton, E. Turner (Meese 82), Christie (Lloyd 78), Haseley (Granville 78), Bragoli.

Unused Subs: Heard, Pearson.

Tipton take the drop but manage to go out on a high

Tipton 1 Lye Town 0

KALUM Evitts drilled home a free-kick three minutes from time to give Tipton Town a 1-0 win over Lye Town.

Tipton could do nothing to prevent their relegation on Saturday, but gave the home fans something to cheer as they bid farewell to the Midland League Premier Division season.

Keeper Jack Hayfield and the Tipton defence withstood plenty of pressure, and their bravery was rewarded when Evitts' came up with the late winner at least giving a his side a chance to out with a victory.

Bilston 2 Dudley Sports 2

BILSTON Town shared the spoils with visiting Dudley Sports, drawing 2-2 in the West Midlands Premier.

Bilston took the lead after just five minutes when Ade Beckford flicked a header over the keeper and landed the ball in the back of the net.

Matt Perry kept his composure to level on 17 minutes, then Luke Williams put the visitors in front on the stroke of half-time.

With 10 minutes remaining, Chris Brown brought about the equaliser.

Boss not happy over weakened side

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger has slammed the fact that he has to take a depleted side to Buxton for Sunday's National League meeting.

Heathens will be without both Nathan Greaves and Ellis Perks due to a clash with Premier League fixtures which take priority – Greaves is racing for Workington and Perks for Scunthorpe.

Pottinger says the fixture should never have been allocated for the same day – and when it was not enough effort was made to change it in the best interests of the sport.

He said: "We'll be forced to go to Buxton without Ellis Perks and Nathan Greaves and I'm not

Speedway

happy about it. This is a far from ideal situation and one that could have easily been avoided with only a handful of National League riders riding in the Elite or Premier League this year.

"Surely it's in everyone's interests for both teams to be at full strength so that it's a fair contest and the best team wins?"

Squad member Tyler Govier comes in at reserve for Perks and the rider replacement facility will operate for Greaves with the remaining Heathens team members eligible to take his four pro-

grammed rides. The next home action at Perry Barr for the Heathens is against bitter rivals Mildenhall on Wednesday May 13.

Pottinger is also unhappy that the National League Fours at Coventry has been put on the same day as Edinburgh are racing which means Heathens will be without skipper Max Clegg for the defence of their title.

Said Pottinger: "The meetings with Mildenhall are always something special and I'm sure this will be no different. We are desperate to go through the season unbeaten at Perry Barr."

WOLVES DOWN TO THE WIRE

Wigan 0 Wolves 1

THE fact Wolves have taken the battle for a play-off spot right to the death is to their huge credit.

Largely written off in the week leading up to this pivotal fixture after three matches without a victory, they battled and scrapped their way back to winning ways.

It's still out of their hands, but as head coach Kenny Jackett said afterwards, they can only do their bit.

Jackett is the main figure for the visit of Millwall – to have any chance of achieving his aim for Wolves his old club must exit through the trapdoor into League One, all in his 100th game in charge.

Football is full of such peculiarities but it would be cruelly ironic if Jackett were to relegate the club he fought so long to keep in the Championship.

So it's all boiled down to one equation, and one sub-plot.

Possible

Wolves must win on Saturday, better the result of Brentford and hope Derby lose at home to Reading to force their way into the top six.

Unlikely yes, but possible.

And to have carried Wolves so far, you have to take your hat off to Jackett.

He wasn't first choice with the fans when he was appointed in June 2013.

But he certainly is now after earning his way into their affections with a superb record.

Now isn't the time to eulogise on all his achievements while he still has chance to earn his finest yet.

But there is no doubting the significant journey he has taken the club on since he was left with the debris and fallout of relegation into League One two years ago.

From an ailing patient riddled with toxicity, he has restored the club back to robust health, with more to come.

Even if they miss out this weekend, it will have been an excellent season.

Even the most optimistic Wolves fans would



Benik Afobe of Wolves celebrates after scoring a goal to make it 0-1

have struggled to predict the team would take their play-off challenge into the final game.

Even fewer if they had witnessed the 5-0 annihilation at Derby on November 8. That they only trail the Rams by two points going into the season's curtain call is quite astonishing, given Steve McClaren's side looked like the champions-elect that day.

Jackett says if Wolves miss out now they will have been unlucky, and statistics certainly back up his claim.

In the 26 seasons of the second tier being held over 46 games, only five times has it required more than Wolves' current tally of 75 points to

take the last play-off spot. So for the second season running, Wolves have the misfortune of being in an exceedingly-good top of the division. And, judging by the fiery nature of Saturday's game, that difficulty extends right through the league.

Wolves signed off their away campaign by producing a lesson in the fundamentals of Championship football.

The statistics show they had just 38 per cent possession, four shots to Wigan's 11 and three corners to their 10. But they got the crucial advantage where it counts, with Benik Afobe's 25th-minute goal separating the sides.

Loss takes the shine off celebrations

Tividale 0 Market Drayton 1
VISITORS Market Drayton Town spoiled Tividale's celebrations at saving their status by scoring the only goal of the final league game of the season.

The day was planned as a thank you for the support Tividale had received from individuals and companies in their finally successful quest to pass a ground inspection that secured their place in the Evo-Stik First Division South.

But the players could not raise their game to match the occasion and went down to a single goal.

On 19 minutes Tividale had their best chance of the first half when Danny Ashton raced down the right wing, pulled the ball back from the by-line to David Bellis who played it into Edwards but from two yards he hit the cross bar.

On 28 minutes Drayton took the lead in bizarre circumstances when a long ball up field was not dealt with by the usually reliable Tividale keeper Charlie Price and he allowed Drayton striker Scott Ryan to nip in, round him and walk the ball into the net.

Tividale stepped up the pressure in the second half when Archer again cleared Read's bar.

They continued to press through out the half but Drayton's defence stood firm.

Botfield had an effort go wide on 72 minutes and Ashton had an effort saved by Read five minutes later.

Drayton were now in complete defence mode as Tividale had a penalty appeal turned down.

In a rare Drayton attack midfielder Courey Garratt was put through but Price made partial amends for his first half error when he was quickly off his line and blocked the shot.

Not the best of starts for Stour

Penkridge 1st XI 164-2 Stourbridge

1st XI 99-2 (Penkridge win)
STOURBRIDGE 1st XI made an inauspicious start to the 2015 campaign losing to Penkridge in a rain affected match.

The Division Two clash in Birmingham and District league had to be decided by the Duckworth Lewis calculations which meant Stour was left to score 164 off 20 overs.

Stourbridge 1st XI put into to bat by Paul Szweczy. Matt Bradley now at the helm replacing his brother Richard had the breakthrough bowling A Watson for four.

With team score still on 11 Jitesh Jivan-Patel removed B. Holmes for six.

★★★

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